

## W. Germans expelled from camp

STADTALLENDORF, West Germany (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) expelled five West German relief workers from a refugee camp near Sidon early Friday, their relief organisation said. The PLO had urged members of the Asma Humantitas agency to leave Sidon, saying it could no longer guarantee their safety after two of their colleagues were abducted in the port city on Tuesday night. Asma Humantitas administrator Dagmar Neckmetsch told a news conference the agency felt it could no longer continue its work in Palestinian refugee camps in South Lebanon. The five expelled workers were staying in a villa near Sidon belonging to Asma Humantitas, Neckmetsch said. She had no news of missing colleagues Heinrich Stroebig and Thomas Kemper. Abdallah Frangi, the PLO representative in Bonn, told a radio interviewer Friday that if it was approached by Bonn, the PLO was prepared to help negotiate the release of Stroebig and Kemper. Frangi distanced himself from Asma Humantitas, saying the PLO had originally welcomed its offer of medical help for Palestinian refugee camps in South Lebanon but the cooperation ran into difficulties.

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## King: Israeli plan for elections is stalling tactic

By Rania Atalla  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Israeli proposal for Palestinian elections, in its present form, constitutes an attempt by the Israeli leadership to stall for time in order to avoid taking a positive step towards the Palestinians, His Majesty King Hussein said Thursday.

"My suspicions are very much alive... that the prime minister in Israel and the Israeli cabinet is really trying to find a way out from the situation they face and a way to waste time and avoid the tremendous pressure that is building up on them to make a positive move towards the Palestinians," the King told reporters shortly after Oman's Sultan Qaboos bin Said's departure Thursday afternoon after a three-day visit.

Palestinian self-determination, the King said, is a question of pride. "A sacred goal for the Palestinians," the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), under the leadership of its Chairman Yasser Arafat, is capable of expressing itself on the issue, the King said in response to a question on the election proposal by

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir earlier this month.

"I would not contradict myself by suggesting that all of us Arabs should give them maximum support for the position as it has evolved at the PNC (Palestine National Council) and at the U.N., the King said in reference to the PNC's declaration in November of an independent Palestinian state and Arafat's recognition in December of Israel's right to exist.

King Hussein expressed satisfaction at Egypt's readmittance into the Arab World, a move crystallised last week when Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak received an invitation to attend the extraordinary Arab Summit scheduled to be held in the Moroccan city of Casablanca May 23-24.

"I am not only hopeful, I am very happy indeed that finally we are where we should have always been... that Egypt and the entire Arab World are... facing their destiny and their future as one people," King Hussein said. "We have finally overcome the effects of a very sad period of Arab history," he added.

Asked whether Sultan Qaboos

had pledged or offered the Kingdom financial assistance, the King said: "His Majesty is as interested in our problems as we are... he has always been generous and concerned."

The King said his talks with Sultan Qaboos, which covered developments in Arab affairs and next week's Arab summit, as "friendly and successful."

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King and Sultan Qaboos had discussed various Arab and international issues and had stressed their concern for the success of next week's Arab summit and its tackling of Arab issues, foremost among them the Palestine issue so that the Palestinian people may exercise their right to live in freedom and independence.

Petra said the two leaders also stressed the necessity to achieve an Arab position that would allow Lebanon to achieve national harmony and to end its 15-year-old conflict. It said the two leaders also agreed on the necessity to intensify efforts that would turn the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran into a lasting peace between the two countries.

Sultan Qaboos' visit to Jordan



came as part of an Arab and European tour which also took him to Kuwait and Egypt.

Seeing Sultan Qaboos off at the airport were King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid bin Shaker, Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, the King's Personal Advisor Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and a number of civil and military officials, in addition to Arab ambassadors in Amman and the Omani Ambassador to Jordan.

Upon his departure, Sultan Qaboos sent a cable to King Hussein thanking him for the hospitality he and his accompanying delegation were awarded during their stay in the Kingdom.

## 4 protesters shot dead, 20 injured in Gaza

## 3 Palestinians, Israeli soldier killed in gunbattle

First clash involving firearms in uprising

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Seven Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were reported killed Friday in clashes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The soldier died in the Israeli military's first firefight with villagers in the Palestinian uprising.

Three Palestinians were killed and a high-ranking Israeli officer was seriously wounded in the battle in the West Bank, the army said. Six other soldiers suffered light wounds.

The battle, in which Palestinians threw a grenade and fired automatic weapons, occurred in Beit Ula, a village of 1,500 about 25 kilometres southwest of Jerusalem. Troops sealed Beit Ula, stopping foreign journalists at the nearby village of Halhoul.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, troops shot dead four Palestinians and wounded at least nine in a clash with residents of Rafah village, doctor's at Gaza City's Nasr

Hospital and U.N. officials said. One of the dead was a woman aged about 50.

It was one of the bloodiest days of the 17-month-old uprising. Palestinians said the Rafah clash erupted after youths broke a Gaza-wide curfew to confront soldiers carrying out arrests.

Israeli Radio stations said troops involved in the Beit Ula clash were called by a collaborator reporting that shots were being fired at his house.

In Damascus, a breakaway faction of the Palestinian Fatah group led by Abu Musa said its fighters had been involved in the clash.

Israeli sources confirmed this. The army said it had long been hunting the three Palestinians, killed in Beit Ula, wanted for killing an Arab suspected of helping Israeli forces.

The gunbattle in the remote village of 3,800 people erupted after 11 soldiers in three jeeps responded to a midnight call from a collaborator in a nearby village who reported shooting, sources said.

Troops chased a white Peugeot car which refused to stop when waved down, said an army spokesman.

"After about 100 metres, it stopped and its occupants got out and opened fire with an M-16 rifle and an Uzi sub-machinegun while throwing at least one hand-grenade.

"As a result they killed one soldier, seriously wounded the battalion commander and slightly wounded six more of our men. Our return fire killed all three," he said.

In Tunis, the Palestine Libera-

tion Organisation (PLO) said its policy against Palestinians using firearms in their battle against Israeli occupation had not changed.

The clash brought an immediate call from right-wing trade minister Ariel Sharon for Israel to ditch its plan for elections in the occupied areas, now being pushed in Washington by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"We are at war and everyone must understand that," said Sharon, architect of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon who strongly opposes the initiative.

Also Friday, Israeli troops arrested about 100 Palestinian activists in the Gaza Strip, including Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, 52, the spiritual leader of the Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas, reports said.

In the West Bank village of Surif, the army blew up two homes of Palestinians allegedly involved in attacks on soldiers during an army raid of the village Wednesday night, the army said.

## Marcos said near death

HONOLULU (AP) — Deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos was in critical condition in a Honolulu hospital Friday following kidney, cardiac and pulmonary failure, hospital officials said.

His successor, President Corason Aquino, said Friday in Manila she would not permit Marcos to return to the Philippines to die or be buried, despite a radio appeal from Marcos' wife, Imelda.

Marcos, 71, suffered kidney failure Thursday morning and underwent surgery to prepare him for kidney dialysis, according to Gen. Tiwanak, assistant administrator at St. Francis Medical Centre.

Mrs. Marcos was by her husband's bedside early Friday morning, said Joe Lazo, a family friend. The couple's son, Ferdinand Jr., and Marcos' sister, Fortuna Barba, were also at the hospital, and the Marcos' daughter, Irene Araneta, was en route from her home in California, he said.

Marcos was conscious before the operation and was lapsing in and out of consciousness later, said a hospital source who asked not to be identified.

Doctors characterised his condition as "touch and go," the source said. The former president also had pneumonia and other severe infections and was being treated with antibiotics and heart medication, said Dr. Azucena Ignacio, an internist at St. Francis and one of Marcos' personal physicians.

In a statement broadcast in the Philippines Friday by pro-Marcos radio station DZEC, Mrs. Marcos said she tried repeatedly to telephone Aquino from Hawaii, but was told the president was busy.

Aquino's secretary, her daughter Maria Elena Cruz, said the president had received no calls from Marcos.

"My countrymen, I am appealing to each and every one of you to pray that hopefully, Mrs. Aquino will know that the bringing home of Marcos will bring true reconciliation, true peace and unity for our country," Imelda said in her broadcast statement.

In a related development, Marcos' lawyer, Juan David, said the Philippine supreme court Friday to order the former president's return, pledging the ousted leader would cooperate with the Aquino administration. The court rejected the appeal later Friday.

Mrs. Aquino told reporters Friday that she was sorry to hear of Marcos' deteriorating condition.



Doctors administer emergency treatment to Chinese students who collapsed after a week of hunger-strike for democracy.

## Peking orders troops to break up protests

PEKING (Agencies) — The government ordered army troops into the capital Saturday to try to end more than a month of student protests that have shaken the communist leadership.

Premier Li Peng did not use the term "martial law" in describing the steps he was taking to quell the student-led protests, but troops appeared ready to move against the demonstrators in Tiananmen Square.

Residents reported troops poised on a main street near the city centre and said some were entering the downtown by subway. A student who ran to the student protesters' encampment on central Tiananmen Square from the west said he saw 10 to 15 trucks immobilised in the street by residents.

Protesting students in the

square who heard the announcement said they were going back on a hunger strike they had suspended Friday and would stay in the square. No troops had arrived in the square more than an hour after the broadcast began.

Li made the nationally televised announcement before several thousand at the Great Hall of the People, the national seat of government that adjoins the square where student demonstrators were camped.

The protesters drowned out the broadcast for several minutes by singing "The Internationale," the song of the world communist movement, then began chanting, "Li Peng, step down."

Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang, whose sympathy for the students was evident and who reportedly ten-

dered his resignation earlier Friday, was not immediately seen. Student demonstrators in the capital's main Tiananmen Square, the heart of the protests which began last Saturday, cheered when Li's speech was relayed over loudspeakers.

The students earlier decided to end their hunger strike but tens of thousands of students and supporters remained in the square, many joining hands and vowing to sit down in non-violence resistance when troops arrive.

Motorised columns of troops, at least two immobilised by protesters who have surrounded the square, massed near the capital's centre. Renter correspondents said.

Li accused a "tiny minority of agitators" of manipulating the protest movement

## U.S. said taking soft approach to Shamir plan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Washington will not press Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to spell out details of his proposals for Palestinian elections while Shamir is still trying to sell them to his Likud Party, a foreign ministry official said Friday.

He said the United States realised Likud could torpedo the Israeli plan for elections in occupied territories if Shamir were forced to make concessions demanded by Palestinians.

Likud's 2,600-member central committee votes on it next month.

The initiative makes no mention of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, international supervision of the elections or participation in the vote by Arab Jerusalem's 140,000 Palestinians. All are demanded by local Palesti-

nians and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"The Americans understand and will not put on any pressure until the Likud vote. They realise that any pushing here, any answer they might get, will make the idea less attractive to Likud," said the official.

Israel's Likud-Labour coalition government approved the plan 20 to six Sunday despite the Likud opposition. But a Shamir aide said the prime minister would resign if his party rejected the initiative.

In an effort to win over the Likud opposition, Shamir vowed Wednesday that Israel would never give the Palestinians "a single centimetre" of the occupied territories.

Shimon Peres, Israel's vice-premier and head of the more dovish Labour Party, said the

principle of trading occupied land for peace was still his party's policy.

In Washington, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said Friday it would "take some time" to implement elections.

At a breakfast meeting with reporters, he appealed for Egypt to attend without preconditions a summit with Israel and the United States as a first step in his government's four-point plan.

He also called on the United States to lead a \$2-billion effort by industrialised countries to "improve living conditions" for 300,000 Palestinians in refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza.

Arens, who met Secretary of State James Baker and other senior U.S. officials Thursday, insisted that Baker "pledged his wholehearted support for the initiative."

## Lebanon panel meets Sunday

TUNIS (Agencies) — Six Arab foreign ministers mediating in the Lebanese conflict will meet in Casablanca Sunday, a day later than previously planned, an Arab League official said Friday.

League Assistant Secretary General Adnan Omran said the league postponed the meeting to give the ministers time to arrive and because they preferred to meet nearer the opening of an Arab summit in the Moroccan city Tuesday.

The committee of ministers — from Kuwait, Sudan, Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates — have been trying since February to resolve a constitutional crisis in Lebanon, which has two rival governments.

At the meeting the committee's chairman, Kuwaiti Foreign

Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, will detail efforts to consolidate a ceasefire that began last week.

The league hopes to send some 320 observers to monitor the ceasefire between army commander Major-General Michel Aoun and Syrian troops and their Lebanese militia allies.

The U.S. embassy in Beirut Friday advised Americans to "depart Lebanon immediately."

"The United States government wishes to advise all American citizens remaining in Lebanon that because of the threat posed by the security situation they are strongly advised to depart Lebanon immediately," the embassy said in a press release.

"American citizens are advised that they are responsible them-

selves for arranging their departure from Lebanon," the release said.

It said the American embassy was "not in a position to arrange transportation of citizens from Lebanon."

A spokesman for Aoun's command, speaking on condition he not be named, said his troops were exchanging machine gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades with Syrian and allied forces on the Souq Al Gharb front southeast of Beirut.

No casualties were reported, but "they fire on us and we fire on them. This hasn't stopped despite the Arab League-sponsored ceasefire," the spokesman told the Associated Press by telephone.



Ciriaco de Mita

## Italian government resigns

ROME (Agencies) — Christian Democrat Premier Ciriaco de Mita resigned Friday after repeated sniping by the Socialists, his main partner in the 13-month-old coalition government.

De Mita turned in his resignation as head of Italy's 48th post-war government to President Francesco Cossiga, who asked him to stay on in a caretaker capacity.

The political negotiations aimed at forming a new coalition could take weeks.

De Mita announced his resignation after an urgent cabinet meeting requested by his main political foe, Bettino Craxi, a former premier who leads the Socialists.

In a closing speech at the Socialist convention in Milan earlier in the day, Craxi said a "political and procedural clarification" about the coalition was needed immediately.

Cossiga's quirinal palace said in a statement that the president had reserved his decision on whether to accept the resignation — a normal formula — and asked De Mita to stay in power to handle outstanding government business.

De Mita told reporters his resignation had become necessary after statements made at the Socialist party congress, but said the rift in the coalition had become apparent before then.

Speaking after his meeting with Cossiga, he said he hoped the crisis would be solved swiftly.

"I hope that a new pact in conditions of political loyalty can put an end as soon as possible to the state of uncertainty and to the difficulties that have brought us to this crisis," De Mita said.

The Socialists and Christian Democrats have been squabbling for weeks over a variety of issues, with Craxi and fellow party members accusing De Mita of failing to take a leadership role.

Political distribute has also been stepped up in the campaign for elections for the European Parliament next month.





Palestinians heading for a Gaza Strip checkpoint after being rounded up and ordered to return home by the Israeli occupation authorities.

## Israeli finance minister opposes Gaza closure

TEL AVIV (R) — Shimon Peres, Israel's vice premier and head of the Labour Party, has warned that new restrictions on Palestinians from the occupied territories working in Israel would incite more hatred.

Israel Thursday announced tough measures for Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip entering Israel, mainly aimed at screening the 60,000 Gaza Palestinians who work daily in Israel.

"To my mind we should not withhold work from residents of the territories because they will be forced into very serious economic straits," Peres said in a radio interview.

"We will be pushing them into a corner, which will cause more

and more bitterness and more and more opposition," warned Peres, who is also finance minister.

The interview took place as Peres' Labour Party debated a new government initiative calling for elections in the occupied territories.

The new entry policy, initiated by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin who is a chief party rival of Peres, will eventually apply also to Palestinians living in the West Bank, sources said.

Peres criticised a statement by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Israel would never give up "one centimetre" of Israeli-held land. He said the principle of trading occupied land for peace is still Labour Party policy.

Rabin told Labour's Central Committee that although Shamir has insisted he will oppose trading land for peace, the initiative did not rule it out in a final settlement.

**Employment**

Rabin said this week that half the Palestinian workers inside Israel did not have official work permits.

Those with permits mostly work for big firms which register them with tax and social security authorities and pay their contributions.

Many smaller firms, to cut costs, do not declare their Palestinian workers who both get a job and pay no tax.

The average wage for non-declared workers is 400 shekels (\$215) a week, more than twice the wage paid by Palestinian employers in Gaza, workers say.

Tel Aviv municipal spokesman Benny Cohen said the city could for the present replace its own-skilled market porters and sanitation workers from Gaza with West Bank Palestinians.

"The problem is in construction where contractors have employed the same people over years and they have become semi-skilled or skilled," he said.

Major construction sites in the city were mostly idle on Thursday with the only activity that of Jewish foremen checking equipment.

## PLO ready to name group to break deadlock

TUNIS — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said here that he would be willing to name a group of Palestinians living in the occupied territories to a provisional government if that would help break the political deadlock in Israel over negotiating directly with the PLO.

"I don't want to burn this card," Arafat said Tuesday (May 17) during a 2½-hour middle-of-the-night interview with The Washington Post. "If they (the Israelis) say no to the PLO, maybe they will accept this provisional government to facilitate some steps" towards reaching a

settlement.

PLO officials are known to regard a provisional government as a potentially critical vehicle for opening negotiations with Israel. In one often-formulated negotiating scenario, elections in the occupied territories could produce a new slate of Palestinian representatives whom Arafat could name to a provisional Palestinian government.

These representatives could then open "confidence-building" negotiations with Israel in the name of the PLO on internal issues of security and economic cooperation. Such preliminary talks could lead to negotiations

on the final status of Palestinian independence in a state confederated with Jordan, according to one Palestinian scenario.

For the moment, Arafat said, it is not possible to name a provisional government because that would endanger the security of Palestinians living in the occupied territories whose leadership must be recognised by the PLO.

In interviews here, diplomatic sources said the U.S.-PLO dialogue begun last December is stalled for now because the PLO has failed to respond to the Israeli proposal, which was transmitted to PLO officials here April 17 by U.S. ambassador Robert Pellet-

reau following Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to Washington.

"The ball is really in their court," a Western diplomat said. "The Americans want to see more from the PLO on Shamir's ideas."

But a senior PLO official involved in the dialogue disagreed with the American assessment, saying the PLO has received nothing that could be called an Israeli election plan other than the U.S. notification that Israel intended to hold elections and that Washington considered it a good idea — The Washington Post.

## Sweden calls for Israel-PLO dialogue

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs Sten Andersson has urged that a dialogue between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should begin as soon as possible in order to prevent the extremists on both sides from subverting the peace process into a violent confrontation.

Speaking before the National Press Club Wednesday on Sweden's role in world affairs, Andersson answered questions on his country's involvement in the Middle East peace process, notably its role in helping to set the stage for the current dialogue between the PLO and the United States.

The minister said that in his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last in the day he expected to discuss "how to find a formula for fair and free

elections on the West Bank and Gaza" which would be acceptable to both the PLO and Israel.

Andersson stressed that the role of Sweden in the Middle East peace process is part of a "silent diplomacy" which is trying to get Israel and the PLO as well as the Arab countries in the region to set the stage for negotiations through "a lot of talking and arm twisting."

He said as part of this "silent diplomacy," the Egyptian foreign minister would be visiting Stockholm June 11-12 followed by the Tunisian foreign minister later in the month. Also, he said several Israeli leaders have been invited but have not yet responded. The foreign minister said he will be visiting Jordan with the Swedish king and queen in September. He stressed that the Middle East peace process "must be assisted

from outside."

Commenting on the Israeli proposal on elections on the West Bank and Gaza, Andersson said although elections were the first step in the peace process, "it is necessary to find a formula acceptable to both parties." As such, he didn't think that the current proposal "is such a formula yet." However, he hoped that elections would be eventually held.

On Sweden's actions as a "middleman" in the Middle East peace process, Andersson said "the role of Sweden differs from party to party." He explained that "two of the three parties" (the United States and the PLO) are interested in Sweden's active role while in the third party (Israel) there are some people who are "very interested," Andersson said that Sweden

would "help build bridges of understanding" to dispel the "mistrust" between the PLO and Israel. He concluded: "The sooner they start talking, the better."

Andersson said while "the forces for peace have been strengthened on the Arab and also on the Israeli side" he fears there are "increasing tendencies of a polarisation."

However, he termed the ongoing U.S.-PLO dialogue as "substantive" and of "fundamental value" to the peace process.

The foreign minister also commented on Sweden's active role in the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East and Namibia. He said Sweden is actively engaged in the international efforts to end apartheid in South Africa and to win independence for the people of Namibia.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Fahd to visit U.S. in July

NICOSIA (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will visit the United States in July on his first official trip to Washington in four years, the royal court said Thursday. The king had accepted an invitation to visit Washington so he could cement traditionally close ties and renew his personal friendship with President George Bush, a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency said. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the visit would start on July 27 but did not give its duration. During his visit, the king is expected to discuss Riyadh's military needs and efforts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. King Fahd's last visit to Washington, in February 1985, was the first by a Saudi monarch since the late King Faisal went to the United States in 1971.

### Wounded Lebanese treated in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — More than 70 Lebanese seriously wounded in the latest spate of violence arrived in Kuwait Thursday for treatment at Kuwaiti hospitals, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. The 71 Lebanese patients, accompanied by 25 of their relatives, were flown from Damascus airport aboard a specially-equipped Kuwaiti Boeing 747. They were ferried by ambulances Wednesday from west Beirut to a Syrian border point where they were received by Kuwait's ambassador to Syria, Ahmad Al-Jasem, the Kuwaiti commander of the Arab observer force, Ali Al-Momen, and a Kuwaiti medical team who travelled from Kuwait for the purpose. An official statement said that another Kuwaiti airliner would fly over the coming week to Larnaca, Cyprus, to bring in another batch of Lebanese nationals, this time from east Beirut.

### Iranian envoy in Turkey to leave post

ANKARA (R) — Iran's ambassador to Ankara, recalled to Tehran in a diplomatic row last month, is to leave his post permanently, the Turkish foreign ministry said Thursday. A statement also said Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati would visit Turkey May 26 with a message from

Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi for Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal. "Ambassador (Manoochehr) Mottaki will be returning to Turkey in coming days to make preparations for his final return to Iran," it said. It did not say if Iran had named a replacement. "Ambassador Mottaki is expected to leave Turkey together with Besharati," the statement said. Turkey recalled its ambassador to Tehran April 3 for consultations after accusing Iran of meddling in its internal affairs. Iran recalled Mottaki the same day. Iranians had protested over a Turkish court ban on Muslim-style headscarves worn on university campuses.

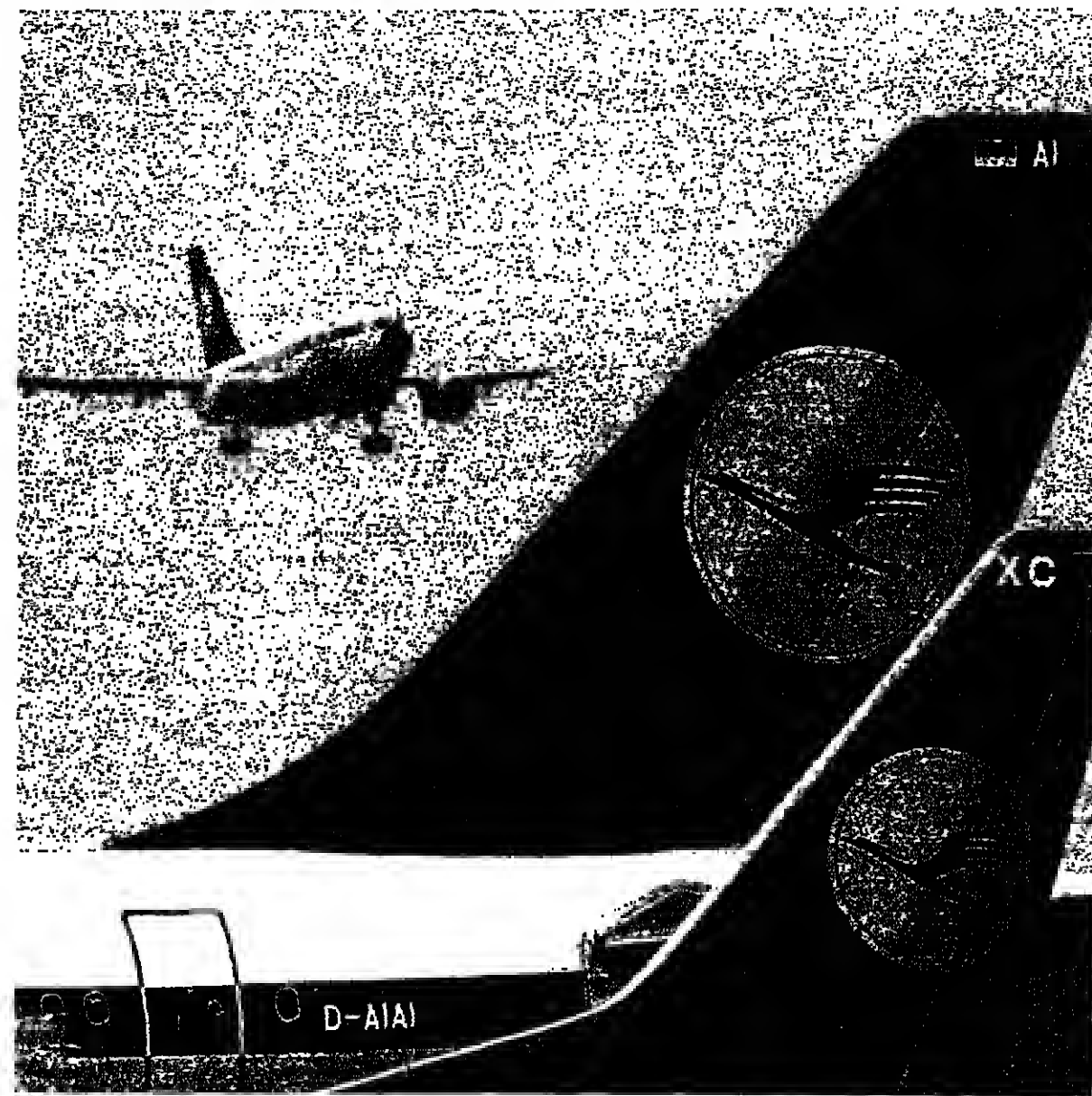
### Egyptian court recommends death for 19

SUEZ, Egypt (R) — An Egyptian court Thursday recommended the death penalty for 19 foreigners convicted in January of drug smuggling, court officials said. Egypt's grand mufti will review the recommendation on the smugglers, 10 of whom were arrested in July on a boat carrying four tonnes of opium, two tonnes of hashish and 300 kilograms of heroin from Pakistan. Four of those arrested were Sudanese, two were Bangladeshi, one Kenyan, one Tanzanian, one Indian and one Somali. The drug ring's masterminds, two Lebanese and a Pakistani, were arrested later. The other six defendants — an American, two Lebanese, two Palestinians and an Israeli — were still at large and were convicted in their absence, the court officials said. The drugs were bound via Egypt for Europe and the United States, the officials said. The court will pass sentence July 4.

### Four die in SLA shelling

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Pro-Israeli militiamen shelled the southern Lebanese port of Sidon Thursday, killing three adults and a baby, security and hospital sources said. They said three other people were wounded when the South Lebanon Army (SLA) fired six shells at Sidon and outlying areas. The city had been spared attack in the bombardment which has hammered Beirut and other areas since mid-March. Many people fled to Sidon to escape the shelling of Beirut. The SLA threatened Wednesday to shell Sidon unless the Popular Liberation Army (PLA), which controls the area, supplied flour for thousands of people in the border "security zone" patrolled by the SLA and Israeli troops.

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## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

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**PROGRAMME ONE**  
15:30 ..... Koran  
15:40 ..... Programme review  
15:45 ..... Children programme  
17:00 ..... Educational programme  
17:30 ..... The Friends  
18:00 ..... News in French  
18:05 ..... Message from Iraq  
18:15 ..... A play by Shakespeare  
19:15 ..... Local programme  
19:40 ..... Programme review  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic series  
21:00 ..... Growing Pains  
21:30 ..... Saturday Variety Show  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Play continued

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Le 14 d'Heure du Procope  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
19:45 ..... Natural Phenomena  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Growing Pains  
21:00 ..... Alfred Hitchcock presents  
21:30 ..... Saturday Variety Show  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Feature film: "Charley Hound"

### PRAYER TIMES

04:02 ..... Fajr  
05:32 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuha

12:33 ..... Dhuhr  
16:13 ..... 'Asr  
19:33 ..... Maghreb  
21:03 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637285  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terresanta Church Tel. 622366  
Bible Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255  
Bible Church of the Annunciation Tel. 822605  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 813687, 821264

### WEATHER

Station supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be hot and dry and winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman ..... Min./max. temp. 20 / 35  
Aqaba ..... 24 / 41  
Deserts ..... 18 / 38  
Jordan Valley ..... 22 / 40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**NIGHT DUTY**  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Hisham Abu Arqoub ..... 893122  
Dr. Deoud Al-Sanabouni ..... 899535  
Dr. Nabil Al-Murad ..... 815338  
Dr. Adnan Al-Dabbas ..... 893644  
Feroz Pharmacy ..... 661912  
Feroz Pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al-Azma Pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nabrook Pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al-Salam Pharmacy ..... 636720  
Yacoub Pharmacy ..... 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660  
ERBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Al-Naqouri ..... (-)  
Al-Sharaf pharmacy ..... (985238)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Mufeed Damra ..... 985522  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 199  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 894390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 636176  
Ambulance ..... 636176  
Complaints ..... 636176  
Telephone Information ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 002239  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 636176

Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power ..... 636381  
Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khaldat Maternity, J. Amn. .... 644281/6  
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn. .... 644112  
Jahel Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 664171/4  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
AJ-Mudaber Hospital ..... 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666171/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Islamic, Al-Muhajir ..... 777101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marata ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 662240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)991071

Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
IBRID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)27275  
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)5320-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
05:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
09:55 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
16:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
18:10 ..... Amman (RJ)  
18:15 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
18:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)

18:50 ..... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
18:55 ..... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)  
11:40 ..... Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)  
16:30 ..... Miami, Vienna (RJ)  
16:30 ..... New York, Montreal (RJ)  
18:20 ..... Athens (RJ)  
18:55 ..... Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)  
20:40 ..... Tripoli (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:20 ..... Cairo (MS)  
14:40 ..... Baghdad (IA)  
15:35 ..... Kuwait (KU)  
16:45 ..... Kuwait (LN)  
18:40 ..... Riyadh (SU)  
19:55 ..... Damascus (AZ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:35 ..... Cairo (MS)  
13:00 ..... Baghdad (IA)  
15:45 ..... Kuwait (KU)  
17:25 ..... Riyadh (SU)  
19:05 ..... Rome (AZ)  
22:45 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
07:55 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
11:40 ..... Tripoli (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:10 ..... Athens (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Aqaba, Paris (RJ)  
12:40 ..... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)  
13:00 ..... London (RJ)  
13:15 ..... Paris (RJ)  
20:40 ..... Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)  
20:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
21:15 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
21:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
21:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lbs per kg  
Apple ..... 508 / 400  
Banana ..... 350 / 300  
Banana (Makassar) ..... 380 / 250  
Beans ..... 340 / 300  
Broad beans ..... 300 / 150  
Cabbage ..... 80 / 50  
Carrots ..... 150 / 100  
Cauliflower ..... 230 / 180  
Cucumbers ..... 140 / 100  
Dates ..... 500 / 400  
Eggplant ..... 180 / 120  
Garlic ..... 250 / 200  
Lemon ..... 200 / 140  
Lentils (per one) ..... 100 / 75  
Marrow (large) ..... 130 / 100  
Marrow (small) ..... 220 / 180  
Orange ..... 380 / 300  
Onion (dry) ..... 70 / 50  
Onion (green) ..... 100 / 80  
Peas ..... 250 / 200  
Pepper (hot) ..... 180 / 150  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 200 / 180  
Potato ..... 250 / 180  
Tomatoes ..... 220 / 180



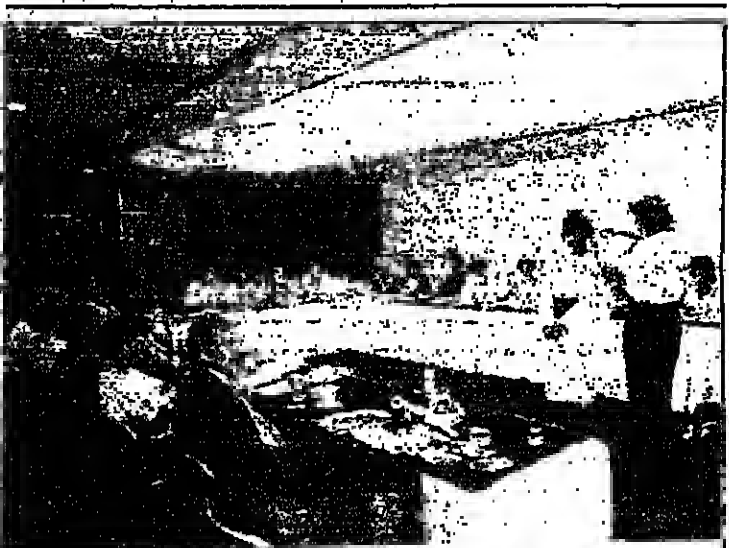


(Above) His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan confers with Prince Khaled and (below) His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein bids the Saudi prince farewell (Petra photos).



### Prince Khaled ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Saudi Air Defence Commander Prince Khaled Ibn Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz has wound up a five-day visit to Jordan and left for home. Prince Khaled was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on the last day of his visit here and the two princes discussed developing Saudi-Jordanian cooperation by concerned organisations in the two countries. During his visit here Prince Khaled toured a number of military and economic positions and held meetings with senior officials and high ranking army officers as well as the commander of the Jordanian Royal Air Force. Upon his departure, Prince Khaled was seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and senior officials.



### Wella France seminar in Jordan

JORDAN has been chosen as the venue of a unique seminar for 25 leading French hairdressers. This workshop, lasting for a full week, is organised by Wella France, for some of its outstanding clients.

The group arrived in Amman Wednesday, May 17, and was welcomed at Regency Palace Hotel by a reception organised by Lawrence Tours, and attended by members of the Wella organisation in Jordan.

The seminar was initiated by Mr. Thierry Tixier, director of seminars of Wella Paris on Thursday morning. This was followed by a demonstration on the latest artistic trends, by Mr. Guy Noel

Baquey, Wella artistic director. Mr. Baquey showed the new line of hairdressing that he coined "Jordanie".

On Saturday the time of the participants will be divided between visiting the highlights of Jerash, and watching the working techniques of Mr. Marcel Geymann, who is the person responsible for sales at Wella Paris. The visit to Amman will be highlighted by a Gala dinner held Saturday evening.

The group will then move down to Aqaba for four days to enjoy the sun and relax on the southern beaches, returning back home next Thursday.

### AMSB recognises Palestinian hospitals as training centres

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestinian hospitals in the occupied Arab territories are now recognised by the Arab Medical Specialisation Board (AMSB) as training centres for obstetricians and gynaecologists, according to an announcement here Friday.

The announcement was made by Dr. Aref Al Bataineh, director to the King Hussein Medical Centre who has been elected chairman of AMSB's scientific council for the coming four years and an observer member of the AMSB

executive board.

Bataineh said that the Jordanian Medical Board will be an authority to provide information on the hospitals in the occupied territories and will organise examinations in Amman for the AMSB members. According

to Bataineh 40 doctors will sit for the AMSB examination in October, and they will come from Jordan, Bahrain, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Lihiya, Kuwait and Iraq.

### Governors transferred

AMMAN (Petra) — Governors of four provinces in Jordan have been transferred to other areas in accordance with a decision taken by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masaadeh.

According to the new arrangements, Eid Qataneh will become governor of Maan, Fayez Abbadi will be governor of Karak, Mohammad Shobaki will be governor of Zarqa and Jamal Momani will become governor of Mafrq.



Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Thursday receives at the Prime Ministry heads of professional associations (Petra photo)

### Sharif Zaid receives associations heads

### Government intent on implementing King's directives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Heads of professional associations in Jordan Thursday called on Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and discussed ways of dealing with current issues in Jordan.

They voiced their support for the government's programme to introduce reform and improve the civil service function.

The heads of associations expressed satisfaction with the government's decisions concerning the easing of restrictions on the media and pledged full cooperation with the government.

The prime minister heard the views of the professional associations on different matters and said that the government embarked on implementing His Majesty King Hussein's directives and was acting in accordance with comprehensive and carefully studied plans to deal with the different issues.

To execute its programmes, the prime minister said, the government requires serious efforts on

the part of the Jordanian citizens so that the country can attain self-sufficiency and increase production.

Sharif Zaid said that the government will settle all issues after careful consideration of each case and there will be no hasty decisions.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masaadeh and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddin.

### WHO to study Palestinians' health conditions — Malhas

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zuhair Malhas returned to Amman Thursday evening after taking part in the annual meeting of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva.

One of the main topics discussed by the WHO's 42nd meeting Malhas said, was the general living and health condition of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories. The WHO meeting has unanimously agreed that a full study on the subject

will be made with a view to improving the Palestinian people's conditions and to providing them with medical assistance, Malhas noted.

He said that the question of including Palestine as a WHO member was also taken up by the annual meeting.

The WHO has given the fight against smoking a special attention and endorsed May 31 as an international non-smoking day, with special attention to be given

to the mothers in view of the great harm to their children resulting from smoking, Malhas noted.

The minister said that he attended Arab health ministers meetings in Geneva which decided on restoring Egypt's membership to the Arab Health Ministers Council. The Arab health ministers, Malhas said, also approved Egypt's hosting of the council's fifth meeting in Cairo in the coming year.

### Anti-narcotics conference calls on Arab states to sign U.N. agreement

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A three-day conference by Arab departments in charge of combating drug smuggling and addiction in the Arab World has concluded in Amman, with the participants recommending that all Arab states should sign a United Nations agreement on combating the trade of illicit products and drugs.

The conference's statement issued Thursday urged Arab

ministers of interior to take action in this matter and to define certain dangerous types of drugs so that proper action can be taken in Arab markets to protect the public health.

It urged Arab states also to co-ordinate bilateral and pan-Arab agreements that would help combat drug trafficking operations within the Arab region and to hold periodic meetings for con-

cerned authorities on border posts in the bid to control cross-border smuggling.

The statement urged Arab states to highlight the danger of drugs through their media especially television.

The conference was attended by 15 Arab countries which discussed cooperation in combating the danger of drugs in the Arab World.

### U.N. fact-finding mission due soon

AMMAN (Petra) — A fact-finding mission will be dispatched by the United Nations to the Middle East region shortly to investigate Israel's human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories and examine Palestinians' living conditions under Israeli rule, according to Dr. Mahmoud Saeed head of a team from the U.N. press office now on a visit to Jordan and the Arab region.

Saeed said that the fact-finding mission, which will visit the occupied territories in the course of its task, will group representatives of Senegal, Yugoslavia and Sri Lanka.

Saeed who has met with cabinet members and toured Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan held meetings with senior officials of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and inspected services to the refugees in Jordan.

His team which represents leading newspapers from Europe, Asia and America will

submit a report to the head of the U.N. press office which initiated the team's tour in the region, Saeed said.

He said that the U.N. sends missions to the Middle East area on regular basis to gather information about the situation in the occupied Arab lands so that reports will be presented to the U.N. General Assembly to help it arrive at resolutions to bring about a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The team which groups journalists from the United States, Britain, France, Canada, Australia, Japan, Italy, Spain, Brazil, Sweden and West Germany has already visited Syria and Jordan in the course of its current tour and had earlier met with Palestine President Yasser Arafat and the Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi in Tunis.

At a meeting with Labour Minister Jamal Badar the mission members heard more facts about Israel's malpractices against the

Palestinian workers and their trade and labour unions in the occupied territories.

Badar spoke of Israel's continued measures to try to uproot the Palestinian people by destroying their socio-economic infrastructure and Israel's confiscation of Arab territory to set up Jewish settlements.

### Ministry to reduce cost of farm equipment

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture will do all it can to help reduce the cost of farm equipment and other materials to help Jordanian food producers increase their output, and welcomes any investments in agricultural processing industries in Jordan, Agriculture Minister Adnan Badran said at a meeting Thursday.

The minister said everything possible will be done to streamline the agricultural production process and to ease bottlenecks in the process of marketing Jordan's products.

The meeting was attended by the president and members of the board of the Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA) whom the minister requested to come up with proposals to help promote the production and marketing processes.

According to official statistics, Jordan on Thursday exported 2,900 tonnes of vegetables to different destinations. The figures were read out at the meet-

ing which was attended by the Ministry of Agriculture's Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi.

On Thursday, Dr. Badran met with a visiting team from the Soviet Academy of Sciences and discussed Jordanian Soviet cooperation in the production of apple and stone fruit trees in Jordan.

The minister briefed the team on various experiments being carried out at agricultural stations in Jordan for the production of improved strains of crops and trees and referred to the ministry's endeavours to set up wildlife reserves to protect animals and birds threatened with extinction.

Referring to the agricultural situation in Jordan, Badran said that the Ministry of Agriculture is determined to carry out plans designed to increase lean meat production and cereals to meet the growing demand in the local markets.

The Soviet team expressed readiness to launch cooperation with Jordan in these fields.

### 3 N. African artists

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, an exhibition of three North African painters opens Saturday at the Scientific Cultural Centre, Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, in cooperation with the Institute of the Arab World in Paris.

The exhibition includes thirty-four paintings by Mohammad Kacimi, Rafik Al Kamel and Abdullah Benanteur.

The Moroccan painter Mohammad Kacimi has created a style of his own which portrays his Arab roots on the one hand, and his

openness to the world of contemporary art on the other.

Rafik Al Kamel, a Tunisian, concentrates his search on the relationship between line and colour, between the figurative and the abstract.

Finally, engraving and painting are the two basic aspects of the Algerian Abdullah Benanteur's art. He is considered as one of the most important North African painters who has contributed to the development of contemporary Arab art.

The exhibition will run until June 20, 1989.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Munira Tawstiyeh at the Housing Gallery.
- ★ The May art exhibition at Al Wasiti Art Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- ★ An art exhibition by Aziz Ammouara at the Gallery Hall, Jabal Lweldah.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Grand Projects for the State: 1979-1989" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photography exhibition by British photographer and writer Jane Taylor in which 41 aerial photographs of various places in Jordan are on display at Alla Gallery.
- ★ A photography exhibition by Adib Atwan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Diana Shamounki at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery (Friday).
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Spotlight Germany" displaying works by eleven German photographers at the Goethe Institute — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ An archaeological exhibition entitled "The Treasures of Hasma Desert" at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by three Arab Maghreb artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

#### FILMS

- ★ A Charlie Chaplin film week at Haya Cultural Centre (For more information call the centre or the British Council).

#### LECTURE

- ★ A lecture, with slides, on the restoration works of the Michelangelo's frescoes at the Sixtine Chapel in Rome by Prof. Nazareno Gabrielli at the Yarmouk University — 4:00 p.m.



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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

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## Shamir's illusions

HIS Majesty King Hussein has said it all when he Thursday described the Shamir election scheme in its present form as no more than an effort to waste time and to escape from the international pressure that calls for a just and honourable settlement in the Middle East. His Majesty has also summed it up perfectly well when he said that the Palestinians' exercise of their right to self-determination is at the heart of the matter and any peace plan or formula is sound only to the extent it grants the Palestinian people this inalienable right. Yet, His Majesty went on to say, the final arbiter of the Israeli election idea was, is and will always be the Palestinians themselves.

In case Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and like-minded Israelis have not heard well Jordan's firm and principled stand on the peace process in the Middle East, the latest words of King Hussein should serve as yet another reminder that Amman is not about to be lured to any Israeli schemes no matter how much they are sugar coated. Jordan has said its first and last word on this subject a long time ago and Israel and its supporters would be well advised to realise that it is not in the nature of the country to fiddle with its fundamental positions on all matters including the one that touches most directly on the Palestinian question. Much valuable time could be saved in the quest for a permanent and just peace in the Middle East if only Israel and like-minded parties would heed Jordan's words of advice.

Unfortunately there are those who pretend that they do not yet comprehend Jordan's position and continue to harbour false illusions. The sooner this cycle of illusions and false hopes disappear from Shamir's vocabulary, the sooner the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict could get on with real business of moving forward to attain the elusive peace between Israel and the Arab World. Of course the biggest illusion of all is Israel's arrogant determination to cling to Arab territories and maintain its control over the West Bank and Gaza Strip while at the same time pretending that it has a genuine peace plan to offer the Arab side. It is therefore obvious that the Israeli ruling establishment, alas, has yet to learn the true lesson of the Palestinian uprising.



From the cartoons of the late Rabbah Saghyar

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN newspapers on Friday discussed the outcome of Sultan Qaboos' visit to Jordan and King Hussein's comments on the visit and the various Arab issues that were discussed with the Omani leader. Al Ra'i daily said that King Hussein seized the opportunity of meeting with the press at the airport to once again reiterate Jordan's determination to support the Palestinian people in their efforts to achieve freedom. The King, as the paper noted, has described Shamir's election proposals as a delaying tactic and a means to try to abort international pressures on Tel Aviv to reach a final settlement. But the King has noted that he will not act on behalf of the Palestinians and their legitimate leadership in deciding on this question, the paper added. It said that the King who discussed various issues with Sultan Qaboos expressed his satisfaction to Egypt's return to the Arab League's summit due to be held in Casablanca later this month and said that this step will contribute further to bolstering Arab ranks.

Writing in Al Ra'i, the paper's editor Rakan Al Majali says that Egypt is back in the Arab fold having now regain every inch of its land lost in the 1967 war with Israel. No one was ever pleased to see Egypt out of the Arab Nation's ranks over the past years and no one was happy about the Egyptian-Israeli agreement, the writer notes. He says that the return of Egypt is a welcome development in the Arab World and a move that would enhance the joint Arab action at all levels. What the Arabs now seek to achieve is a comprehensive settlement that provides for the return of the whole of Arab land lost to Israel in the 1967 war and the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which ensure the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland, the writer adds. He says that Egypt's return has been welcomed by all the Arabs including Syria because it is a step that would bolster Arab efforts to achieve their national objectives.

Al Dustour for its part summed up the different points in King Hussein's statement upon seeing off Sultan Qaboos. The paper said that the King's statement reaffirmed Jordan's support for an independent Palestinian reply to Shamir's election proposal which the King described as a mere tactic to ease pressure on the Zionist state from the international community. The paper said that the Israelis are clearly trying to delay any attempt to bring about a lasting settlement and are desperately attempting to impede constructive efforts for a settlement. On Arab issues the King was clear and loud about his delight over Egypt's return to the Arab fold and its participation in the coming summit, the paper noted. It said that Egypt's return removed another trace from the sad chapters of the Arab history.

# Europe in flux: New hopes across the continent

By Jean Kirkpatrick

PARIS — In Europe, change and talk of change are everywhere.

The approach of 1992 and the new Europe, the democratisation of Hungary, Poland's new freedom, the rise of nationalist and democratic movements in the Soviet Union, Helmut Kohl's difficult and unexpected demands for the removal of short-range nuclear missiles, the British Labour Party's return from the political desert of unilateral disarmament — these and other transformations dominate the conversations of Europe's political class. There is an atmosphere of excitement and expectation.

The new Europe emerging from its long gestation will be as different as a butterfly is from a crawling caterpillar.

No one is certain about the size or shape of the new Europe, or about exactly how it will function, but its evolution is already having an impact on the politics of member states and on the imagination

of Europeans.

The opportunity to win (or preserve) political prominence through the institutions of the new Europe is attracting creative, ambitious political figures who are already busily trying to expand the scope and power of the new domain. The prospect of membership in this huge, rich market is exciting and stimulating in countries which have learned reluctantly since World War II to regard themselves as something less than powers of the first rank.

"If there can be a market of 300 million, why not a market of 600 million?" said a rising star in the French political firmament.

Why not? Chancellor Franz Vranitzky of Austria says his country is nearly ready to make a formal application for membership in the European Community. Why should not the countries of the East, as they retrieve their national independence, be part of the new Europe? The Soviet grip on Eastern

Europe has already loosened enough so that Hungary has been granted observer status at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. The economies of Eastern Europe are open enough so that there is competition for their markets and growing Western participation in their industrial development.

The rapid democratisation of Hungary's politics, the less dramatic but real political reforms enacted in Poland and the progressive openings of glasnost in the Soviet Union have raised hopes and stimulated democratic and nationalist movements. The most exciting political struggles today are inside the Communist countries of Eastern Europe, where reformers vie with Stalinists or Brezhnevists for control of the future.

In Western Europe, discussion focuses on Mikhail Gorbachev's economic and social failures and on his diplomatic successes. West Europeans worry aloud that his

reforms are still reversible, but they fear that his diplomatic victories might be permanent.

There is a widespread view that the goals of Soviet foreign policy are to separate West Germany from the new Europe and the new Europe from the United States, leaving West Germany and Europe unprotected.

Anxiety about the West German role in the new Europe was, of course, heightened by Chancellor Helmut Kohl's demand that the United States negotiate the removal of short-range nuclear weapons from German soil. But this proposed denuclearisation is only one facet of a resurgent concern about a resurgent Germany. The depolarisation on East-West relations recreates the possibility of a Central Europe, and there is no question about who is the dominant power in Central Europe.

West German economic power is viewed as awesome. West German economic penetration of

Eastern Europe has already enhanced it. West Europeans — and some East Europeans — scare themselves with images of a powerful, reunified, neutral Germany dominating Central — and perhaps Eastern — Europe.

Manifestly, Europe is in flux. And that means that American foreign policy in the region is in flux. West German reluctance to accept nuclear weapons threatens NATO's "forward strategy," the centerpiece of which is the defence of Germany. The United States could not conceivably maintain large numbers of exposed, outnumbered U.S. troops in Germany without nuclear protection.

Of course, a reformed democratic Soviet Union would dismantle its huge conventional and unconventional forces and would constitute a threat to no one. But the Soviet Union is not so reformed, and it has not yet begun serious reductions in military forces and military budgets.

Confronting all this change, what should the United States do?

First, it should remember that maintaining American troops in Europe is a burden and not a privilege. In fact, it is not clear that today's rich, technologically advanced Europe requires the kind and amount of protection that the United States has provided since World War II. A united Europe could surely provide a greatly strengthened European "pillar" for the defence of its own independence.

It is a hopeful time. I believe that Americans should enjoy rather than fear the changes under way in Eastern and Western Europe. America cannot control these processes and need not try. It should instead spend its time reflecting on what it is like to live in a world with multiple power centers and multiple competitors, for that is what tomorrow will be — Los Angeles Times.

## Iranian leaders wrangle over who will succeed Khomeini

By Ed Blanche  
The Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Iran's leaders have set to work once again on who Iran's supreme leader will be after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini dies. The latest signs are that he may be replaced by more than one man.

The leadership question was thrown wide open last month after Khomeini forced his designated heir, Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, to resign following his criticism of Iranian policies.

Khomeini, 88 and ailing, then named a 20-man committee of Iran's leading political, clerical and legal figures to settle the leadership question and to draft amendments to the December 1979 revolutionary constitution.

Indications are that since no one appears to have the charisma or religious authority of the aging revolutionary patriarch, the committee could decide that Iran should be led in the future by a council of three to five men.

Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is the frontrunner in presidential elections later this year, is one likely member of the collective leadership, which presumably would embrace Iran's various factions.

He secured an important endorsement last month from Tehran's Etefaat daily, whose publisher, Mahmoud Doaei, is

close to Khomeini. It declared: "Mr. Rafsanjani has the qualifications to head a leadership council."

Foreign analysts say other possible candidates are likely to include Ayatollah Ali Meshkini, radical chairman of the 83-member assembly of experts; Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, a leading member of the 13-man council of guardians; chief justice Ayatollah Musavi Ardehili, a centrist; and Khomeini's son Ahmad, a key power-broker who is showing increasing signs of political ambitions after years in his father's shadow.

In naming the committee to study the future of Iran's leadership, Khomeini said the constitution contained "imperfections and flaws." He did not specify these, but warned that any delay in the amendments would bring "plagues and bitter consequences for the country and the revolution."

One of the constitutional committee's tasks is to decide whether to scrap or downgrade the post of prime minister and broaden the executive powers of the presidency.

The committee is expected to present its recommendations in advance of the presidential elections to be held between July 22 and Aug. 22, before incumbent Ali Khamenei's second four-year

term expires in September. He cannot run for a third term. The committee's recommendations will then go to a nationwide referendum at about the same time as the presidential voting.

The two votes will affect both the future course of Khomeini's decade-old Islamic revolution and the power of the country's theocracy, which radicals fear is in danger from the liberalisation sought by more moderate leaders.

These concerns have fuelled a radical resurgence in Iran in the wake of the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the war with Iraq. There have been purges of so-called "liberals" and the execution of hundreds of political dissidents.

The current swing toward the anti-Western radicals dates from Feb. 14, when Khomeini issued his death sentence on British author Salman Rushdie for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel, "The Satanic Verses."

But Khomeini has been known to throw his weight behind one faction or another every few months in a delicate balancing act that prevents any group from becoming too powerful.

Some analysts suspect Khomeini may already be swinging back toward Rafsanjani's so-called pragmatists.

The only declared candidate in the presidential elections so far is

Rafsanjani. He is supported by the hard-pressed middle class, the powerful "bazaaris," or merchant community, and some of the conservative religious establishment.

The populist speaker polled 1.3 million votes in last year's parliamentary elections, the highest single tally in the ballot.

Hard-line Prime Minister Hussein Musavi has declared he will not run for president. But other radicals may yet join the contest.

Khamenei, who backs Rafsanjani, noted that the leaders who drew up the constitution after Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was ousted sought to ensure that "power could be dispersed and not concentrated, in view of their bitter experience of the concentration of power under the former regime."

"Now the country needs strong managers with enough powers during the post-war reconstruction period and this necessitates the revision of the constitution," Khamenei said.

The radicals oppose centralising power. But Ayatollah Abolqassem Khazari, an influential figure, noted last week: "Some powers should be concentrated... if the legislative branch is vigilant... there can be no move toward a dictatorship."

The radical revival torpedoed Rafsanjani's efforts to build

bridges with the West to end Iran's isolation and left him politically exposed.

But the speaker, one of the shrewdest figures in Iran who has survived earlier reverses, has in recent weeks publicly taken a much more radical position, protecting his flanks from hard-line rivals led by Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

For instance, he was quoted earlier this month as saying that if Islamic militants killed Britons,

Frenchmen and Americans in retaliation for the deaths of Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories, Israel's repression of Palestinians would cease. Rafsanjani later said he had not meant to encourage such slayings.

How long he will identify with the radicals is open to question. He has changed positions many times in the last decade, trimming his sails to the prevailing political winds until he is able to reassess himself.

## OPEN FORUM More of the same

I WOULD like to convey my gratitude to the National Music Conservatory of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation for procuring us regularly with a varied choice of musical recitals presented by great performers. This enhances our existence and helps us encourage our children in their work with music — notwithstanding the fact that the performers themselves contribute to our young musicians.

As for the latest performer, Lebanese flautist Wissam Boustany, his virtuosity was such that he could make us feel the weight of one note and the lightness of a whole scale. He so captivated his audience that one could see the anticipation felt before a piece started and the smiling wide-eyed faces ultimately impressed at the end.

The artist could change from one style to another with ease and grace, jumping from melodious Donizetti to the colourful Baroque spirit of Bach, from the abstractions of Gubaiulina to the lyricism of Schubert. Clayton offered him a spirited accompaniment on the piano adding a further dimension to this wonderful performance.

Since these performances are advertised well in advance and have always been higher than our expectations, I urge the public to back the conservatory through faithful attendance to such performances.

Nelly Lanna

## LETTERS

### Baffling

To the Editor:

FORGIVE my ignorance, but will someone explain to me what is the link between a Jordanian reader's view of the treatment of Jews during World War II in Nazi Germany and relations between Jordan and West Germany. While the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany has the right to respond to and refute the allegation made in Mr. George Khoury's letter, it fails me to understand what role the Palesti-

nian problem and Amman-Bonn relations have to do with the issue.

Furthermore, since when does a reader's view "poison the atmosphere of friendship and cooperation" between two countries? By the same token, it is also baffling to see the logic behind equating a letter to the editor in a newspaper with a "pamphlet" since it is clear that the opinion expressed in such a letter is strictly that of the writer.

Rudina Khalil  
Amman

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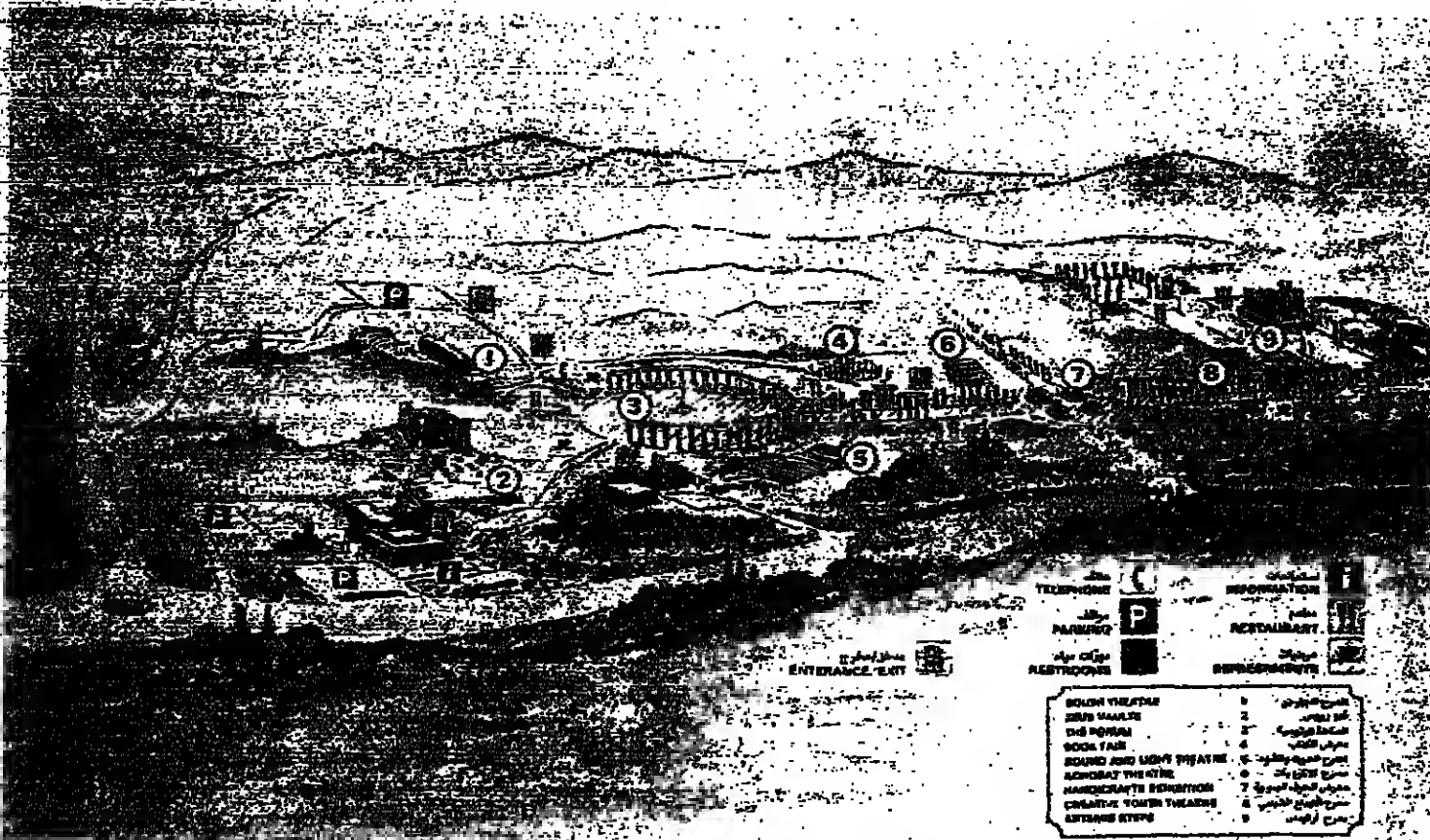
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## Jerash — summer of a lifetime

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Come to Jordan for the summer of a lifetime," is the motto on the Jerash Festival brochures distributed all over the Arabian Gulf, Europe, the Far East and the United States. With an unprecedented publicity campaign, the 1989 Jerash Festival is expected to be the best attended festival to date, organisers say.

The July 5-July 20 festival comes at a time when Jordan has made visible and strenuous efforts to promote its tourism industry in an attempt to generate additional revenue for the country, among other things.

This year's festival director, Akram Masarweh, points out that 1989 is the first year that the Jerash Festival has been actively promoted outside of Jordan and the Middle East.

The national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), which was appointed last year as the representative of the Ministry of Tourism abroad, has produced a wide variety of promotional material covering all aspects of the festival.

Ten different travel packages aimed at nine Arab countries, mostly in the Gulf, were put together in an attempt to lure the citizens and expatriates living in these countries into attending the festival. RJ went so far as to produce individualised brochures for each country.

The brochures in the packages cite the tour prices in the respective country's currency, rather

than in Jordanian dinars or American dollars so that potential visitors get a feeling of "familiarity."

The impression of the reader of a brochure gets is that the festival has been arranged for his or her own benefit, Masarweh asserts.

He points out that the air fare, cost of accommodation and festival tickets themselves have been kept at an "absolute minimum" in an attempt to make the festival affordable to a larger number of people.

"We are just barely covering the overheads," he said.

According to Masarweh, the festival is not meant to be a commercial project as such, but rather a cultural activity where Jordanians and non-Jordanians alike will have an opportunity to create and maintain cultural links with one another.

"This year, the aim is also to promote Jordan as a touristic place, and with the tremendous group effort that has been exerted, this is what the result is likely to be," he told the Jordan Times this week.

The festival's target groups range from those likely to stop over in Jordan for a few days on their way from the Gulf to Europe, Europeans and Americans looking for an inexpensive Oriental vacation and to Japanese globe-trotters some of whom are expected to come all the way from Japan to see the famous shobichu in Jerash's South Theatre.

"The air fare and hotel rates are such that it would be worth

coming from the Gulf even for the weekend," according to Masarweh. "As for Europe, the Far East and the Americas, I doubt that the tourists will find a more colourful, packaged vacation anywhere."

The Jerash programmes have been drawn up to accommodate fans of both Arabic and foreign cultures. Every evening a major attraction will be an Arab or foreign event. French and Russian ballet troupes will perform as well as folklore groups from Trinidad and the United States among other countries. Egypt's contribution will include an Arabic play entitled "Salome," while Lebanon's Rabee Al Khooli and Morocco's Samira Sa'ed are likely to please the crowds with their popular songs.

For those who cannot afford to pay the maximum price of JD 4 per performance, a free-of-charge performance will be held at the Jerash Forum every evening. Performances staged at that forum will range from local bands and theatre groups to a folkloric troupe from Indonesia, a Spanish dance group and a clown show from the United Kingdom.

The Jordan Express Tourist Transport (JETT) has concluded an agreement with the Jerash Festival organisers to provide three buses daily to Jerash. The first bus will be leaving for Jerash at five in the afternoon and the last bus to Amman will be leaving after the last show ends at midnight. The round trip fare will be

JD 1.5.

Entrance fee is JD 1 for adults and 250 fils for children but buying a ticket for a particular event exempts attendants from the entry fee.

Catering will be handled by Royal Jordanian rather than by several food entrepreneurs as in previous years.

The Jerash Festival organisers have invited a large group of journalists specialised in travel and culture writing from major newspapers and magazines to cover the event worldwide. Those include almost every major publication in the Arab World as well as Europe, Asia and the Americas. Television reporters and freelance journalists and photographers have also been invited.

Masarweh points out that in drawing up the list of journalists, a group of researchers was assigned to investigate which appropriate journalists should be invited to cover the festival.

"A lot of effort has gone into the preparations for this year's festival," he said. "We have tried to make it as organised as possible and in so doing, we have paid attention to every detail."

"All those who have taken part in the organisation of the festival have given of their time and effort selflessly... starting with those who drew the first sketches of the posters to those who will be working as volunteers during the festival. There will continue to be an unprecedented spirit of cooperation which will now be doubly visible in the expected success of the festival," he concluded.

## Japanese master to introduce Ohara School of Ikebana to Jordanians

By Nelly Lama  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Japanese art has, since the beginning of the century, received great acclaim in Europe and the United States. Japanese interior decoration; woodcuts (graphic prints), origami (folding paper into sculptures, etc.), have all been studied, adapted and developed by the West. Yet, the art that seems to have entered most households in the world is the art of Ikebana, or Japanese flower arrangement. Jordan, of course, is no exception. Many Jordanian ladies have had the good fortune of joining one or more courses of Ikebana given by the various clubs and associations in Jordan, or were exceptionally lucky to have a Japanese teacher offer the course here in Amman.

Such an opportunity seems to have come up once more with the arrival of Mr. Masatoshi Tomita, first term master of the Ohara School of Ikebana, to Amman. He is about to give three courses, lasting six weeks, about the Ohara School of Ikebana, the concept of which was devised by the headmaster Ushin Ohara, a sculptor who was adept at flower arrangement. He designed and fired the low flat wide-surfaced containers for the many colourful flowers of the West. He founded the Ohara School of Flower Arrangement at the end of the 19th Century and with it, the history of Ikebana took on new dimensions.

After the death of Ushin in 1916 the second headmaster was Koun Ohara who, apart from inheriting Ushin's artistic skills, was a great organiser. He systematised everything, even determining the length of the stems to be used; he modernised teaching methods explaining the system with step-by-step illustrations. After the Second World War, Houn Ohara, third headmaster, was the first to hold a flower exhibition amid postwar confusion as a symbol for peace persuading the people that there were finer things in life to appreciate.

With new floral materials and an admirably creative spirit, he succeeded in elevating Ikebana from the level of a purely decorative element of everyday life to its acceptance as a major art form. He presides today over the Japan Ikebana Association, while his son Natsuki bears the title of Fourth Headmaster Designate. With main offices in Tokyo and Kobe, Ohara centres in New York and Sao Paulo, nearly 50 chapters outside of Japan and over 160 chapters within Japan, the Ohara school has about 130,000 teachers with over 1,000,000 students throughout the world.

It is, therefore, imperative to realise the seriousness of Ikebana, as well as its spiritual and aesthetic connotations. When it started thirteen centuries ago, Ikebana was part of a Buddhist ritual and originated as a floral offering to the dead. As this art form submitted to complete Japanese religion, its religious connotation was lost and the teaching of "naturalism" was emphasised.

With time, Ikebana forms changed and many schools were established offering a variety of styles that kept certain common features. These essential features, common to all schools, are the sufficiency of space between the materials, a characteristic asymmetry that gives the arrangement the essential aesthetic touch so typical of the Japanese culture, and the harmony created in correctly spacing flowers and branches. Materials may include all parts of the plant: branches, leaves, flowers, fruits, even vegetables. Flower buds and withered flowers may be as valuable as a flower in bloom.

Ikebana usually uses up very few materials, sometimes one flower is enough, but the selection needs an experienced eye and making it look great requires advanced technique. That is why, even the most experienced lady in flower arrangement can see the need for an opportunity like Mr. Masatoshi's course (which caters for both beginners and advanced Ikebana artists. Two-hour sessions are given at three different times of the day. Monday through Thursday, from May 13 to June 24).

Mr. Masatoshi started studying Ikebana of the Ohara school in Tokyo in 1964 and went on receiving higher honours, getting more advanced and finally establishing or simply enhancing the different Ohara chapters around the world. These cover North,

Central, and South America, some parts of Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Australia, to which he went in the company of headmaster Houn Ohara.

Ohara School of Ikebana depends on two main forms: Moribana, which employs flat, shallow containers, and Heika, which employs tall thin ones. Each of these includes an upright style, full of dignity; it brings out the beauty of straight vertical plants like chrysanthemums. A slanting style that heightens the natural graceful line of slanting or drooping flowers; a cascading style for plants whose fruits hang heavy. This is a very attractive style with plants cascading over the vase. A heavenly style capitalising on the vertical line of the material: here the flowers are grouped into the centre of the container, bringing a balanced effect and helping the arrangement to soar upwards.

And finally, a contrasting style which uses branches spreading gracefully to the left and right with the arrangement centred in the middle of the container. Moribana also includes the one row style which is constructed in a different manner than others. The main flower (subject) and the secondary one are placed at opposite ends of a long container with the shortest flower (the object) in the centre in order to give a serial effect where no depth is necessary.

It is only through constant practice with different materials

that the student can get a feel for the materials and grasp their specific arrangement, whether classic or free-style, or be able to devise the colour scheme or to decide on the line or form. He has to learn to follow new styles such as the landscape arrangement (the creation of a natural landscape in a container), the Rimpa arrangement (the paintings of the Rimpa school (mainly floral and plant motifs), the Bunjin arrangement (rooted in the Literati style of the Edo period) or the Hanamani (dancing of flowers) introduced by the Ohara school in 1985.

Students can advance to higher levels according to the school's curriculum under the watchful eye of Mr. Masatoshi who will re-arrange and criticise the students' initial arrangements and drawn design studies done with mathematical measures seen from a frontal view, a side view and a bird's eye view, thus containing the positive and negative space in the manner of sculpture in the round — notwithstanding the fact that line rather than colour or form is the most essential feature of Japanese Ikebana.

The Ohara school emphasises seasonally. You observe nature and the seasonal change of the flora, its natural beauty, the growth processes, the reddening or drying of leaves in autumn, etc. Each season conveys a different type of arrangement.

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## 'Festival of the Continents'

By Ingelore Winter

BONN (DaD) — The traditional Bonn summer arts festival, featuring large- and small-scale performances, throughout the summer season on the streets and squares of the West German capital, will be something special this year. As part of the celebrations held to mark the 2,000th anniversary of what was once an ancient Roman city, the people of Bonn, including 10,000 diplomats from 160 countries, will witness a "Festival of the Continents." Between May and September music and dance companies from over 60 countries and all five continents — over 700 performers in all — will take part in 10 large-scale spectacles. The colourful festival programme, of which highlights will be seen on an open-air stage specially built on the Marktplatz with the Baroque facade of the city's Rathaus in the background, will be accompanied by a rich and varied range of culinary fare.

Residents and visitors alike will thrill to the sound and sight of Latin American samba dancing, traditional African dances performed on stilts, folk music from South-East Asia and a typically

American "Bonn Birthday Party" to be held early in August by the U.S. embassy.

India is sending masked dancers, and Pakistan a folk song and dance company. Malaysia will feature a traditional dance drama of the kind that used to be performed at the sultan's palace. Soviet Azerbaijan is sending choral singers, Thailand folk music and dance from up-country. Visitors will be equally delighted by Chinese and Japanese fireworks displays.

Bonn this summer will also be hosting folk groups from Africa and the Arab World, while Latin America will feature singers and dancers from Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Trinidad, Venezuela and Surinam. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden are jointly holding a Scandinavian summer festival in Bonn, while Mediterranean Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and Cyprus will do their joint best to ensure that the "Festival of the Continents" is the greatest international arts spectacular Bonn has seen in the past 2,000 years.

In July 130 acrobats and clowns and 25 groups from all over Europe will converge on Bonn for the largest-scale festival of

street theatre ever held in Germany. Several hundred participants in the European Youth Drama Workshop will make their contribution to the festival at the same time. Other events will range from a Unicef children's festival and a modern ballet event to an international film festival.

In May the city will host the 2000 Club, a group of 10 cities in the German-speaking world that

have held bimillennial celebrations in recent years. They include Augsburg, Trier, Strasbourg and Zurich. Bonn is now a member of this exclusive group.

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# Iranian black economy thrives

DUBAI (Agencies) — Rent for a modest two-bed flat in Tehran can be twice the monthly salary of the average worker and a pair of jeans costs the equivalent of two weeks' wages.

Iranians living in the Gulf and independent economists draw a picture of Iran as a country where the man-in-the-street must swim the muddy waters of the unofficial economy to survive.

In Iran, the black economy has become the real economy as confusion over official policy continues. State finances float precariously on a limited pool of oil which buys scarce foreign exchange.

"Most people cannot live on their real wages, so they join in with the black economy," said one Iranian.

"If you have a car, then after your day's work you can go out as a taxi driver to earn some more," said another Iranian.

Iran has become increasingly politically isolated this year as it follows a strict course of Islamic idealism, nurtured by spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's deep distrust of moral and economic liberalisation.

Sources close to Iranian parliamentarians say the leadership is well aware that it must tackle the strains within the economy but that little can be done until there is greater political centralisation. Outside political analysts believe Iran may be able to chart a clearer course after presidential elections in August, which Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani appears set to win.

Iran's problem is most dramatically reflected in a black market exchange rate for its currency, the rial, that is now approaching 24 times the official rate.

In nearby Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, which Iranian merchants use as an outlet for non-oil trade, the street rate for rials last week was as high as 1,500 to the dollar.

An average worker in Iran earns 50,000 to 70,000 rials a month. A doctor on a government salary perhaps 100,000.

Rent on a two-bed flat in Tehran is typically 70,000 to 100,000 rials a month.

Travellers say a pair of jeans costs 30,000 rials and a kilogramme of meat 3,000. The home-made Paykan car has gone up in price 25 times in 10 years to nine million rials.

The fact that Iran's economy has become priced on the real value of the dollar can be seen by dividing these prices by the black market rate — jeans at 20, meat at \$2 and a car for \$6,000, the economists said.

The leadership has issued conflicting signals to its citizens, who have become wary of ostentatious free enterprise after 10 years of Islamic revolutionary attacks on capitalism.

In the past month, a top-level advisory council recommended that some state-owned firms be privatised for efficiency's sake. Outside economists estimate more than 90 per cent of the corporate economy is controlled by the state.

In two weeks time, the government has said it will impose a 15 to 40 per cent sliding scale wealth tax on people with assets of 100 million rials and over.

With a typical house in north Tehran valued at up to 30 million, Iranians estimate one in 10 of the country's 50 million people will be eligible for the tax.

"But it will be very difficult to manage. And that is how inflation will rise further," said an Iranian businessman.

Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said in March that inflation was running above 23 per cent a year. But independent economists said that figure appeared to cover only basic living costs.

The government relies almost exclusively on oil earnings for foreign exchange. Oil accounts for more than 90 per cent of export earnings and economists

forecast these anywhere up to \$12 billion this year, depending on world oil prices.

Iran to resume gas exports to USSR next year

To boost earnings, Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh last week agreed to resume annual exports of 2-3 billion cubic metres of natural gas to the Soviet Union starting next year.

He said that Iran would like use the Soviet Union as a transit point for gas sales to other European countries.

Export of Iranian gas to the USSR was halted in 1980 over a price dispute.

Aqazadeh said that sales of natural gas were important in upgrading relations between the two countries. A string of cooperation agreements have been signed recently.

The Soviets have agreed to help rebuild the giant Isfahan steel complex, manufacture hydroelectric plants, and construct oil platforms in the Caspian Sea.

The Isfahan steel complex, built by the Soviets in the 1970s, was all but destroyed by Iraqi air attacks.

The Soviet Union also looks to benefit from a resurgence of anti-Western sentiment in Iran.

Shipping line to operate in Caspian Sea in June

As an example, a joint Soviet-Iranian shipping line in the Caspian Sea will begin operations next June to carry goods from the Soviet port of Baku to the Iranian ports of Anzali and Nowshahr, Tehran Radio has reported.

The joint network will comprise two ships from each country, and will transport 400,000 tonnes of goods to Iran annually, the radio said.

The first ship will leave Baku for an Iranian port next month, to coincide with Rafsanjani's planned visit to Moscow, the radio said.

Iran will also buy two ships from the Soviet Union, according to the radio.

In addition, Iranian trucks will be allowed to pass through Soviet territory on their way to other European countries, the radio said.

The Soviet Union will also help Iran electrify its railroads, build the Masbad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway in northeastern Iran, and build border checkpoints at Sarakhs and Tajan, the radio said.

The latest contracts follow a string of agreements signed by Moscow and Tehran in recent months.

Promising sustained support

## IMF esteems Jordan's courageous, comprehensive adjustments

AMMAN (R) — Jordan is tackling its economic crisis bravely and will get sustained IMF support if it implements agreed reforms, an IMF official said.

"Jordan's reform programme is courageous and comprehensive," Shakour Sbaalan, director of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) Middle East department, told Reuters in an interview.

"We have little doubt of their understanding of what needs to be done and that they will carry it out in a sustainable way," he noted.

Sbaalan, an Egyptian, said Jordan had a foreign debt of \$8 billion. Payments of just over \$1 billion are due this year but the repayment burden will ease slightly in 1990, he said.

Bankers estimate the debt at about 225 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

The total debt was put previously at \$6 to \$6.5 billion. The government of Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker has released no

details on public finances since it took office April 27. Bankers say military spending accounts for about half the debt.

Sbaalan said the IMF management approved a letter of intent on Jordan's reform plan about 10 days ago. It would be presented to the fund's executive board at the end of June or beginning of July.

Disbursement of IMF facilities worth about \$125 million could then begin and Jordan could apply in the Paris Club of creditors to reschedule government-guaranteed debt.

Sbaalan said Jordan began the reform process itself. After talks in March and April, the IMF agreed to back the plan with its resources and help with rescheduling.

It was also hoped that friendly countries would give Jordan additional help over and above debt rescheduling, he said.

Arab donors have announced no new aid for Jordan since a 10-year pact, under which they

were to pay \$1.25 billion a year, expired last year. Actual aid fell far short of this.

"The Jordanians had relied on aid to a great extent and these masked some problems," Sbaalan said. "When the aid began to decline, they could have reacted a few years earlier but perhaps they expected the high level of aid to resume."

He said the reform plan was a collaborative effort between Jordan, the IMF, the World Bank and commercial banks.

"The object of the programme is to accept the reality that Jordan is living beyond its means for too long," Sbaalan said.

"They spent more than their income. Now they realise they should depend on their own resources and must put their own house in order," he stressed.

Asked if the dinar's present fixed exchange rate of 540 fils to the dollar could stay, he said:

"We feel the present level is appropriate given the policies that have been implemented."

The IMF did not oppose Jordan's plan to spend more than \$100 million on basic food subsidies this year, he said.

"The IMF is not against subsidies as such. We are extremely

sensitive to (the need to) target whatever subsidies are needed ... (to safeguard) ... the living standards of low-income groups."

The fund's main concern was cutting the budget deficit and ensuring that subsidies did not lead to wastage likely to frustrate their original purpose.

Bankers say Jordan had a budget deficit of 200 to 300 million dinars (\$370 to \$550 million) in 1988, but full official figures are not available. It also ran a trade deficit of more than \$1 billion.

They estimate that the dinar devaluation and declining Arab aid and remittances have cut per capita income to around \$1,200 from about \$2,000 in 1987.

"I was not expecting the riots. I personally have doubts that they were totally related to the price increases," Sbaalan said.

He said it was vital for any government trying to implement an IMF-type austerity plan to explain it properly to the people.

"For any programme to succeed the people have to understand why the measures are being taken," he declared.

If it makes people suffer

## Khartoum rejects IMF medicine

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, his huge country racked by civil war and natural disasters, said Thursday he would not agree to IMF cures for the economy if they made life harder for the people.

"We are still talking to the IMF (International Monetary Fund), but we will not enter any agreement unless it is based on what the Sudanese economy can endure," Mahdi said.

"It is not acceptable, in my view, to solve the present economic problems at the expense of the people because they don't have enough," he noted.

Sudan, Africa's largest country, has a foreign debt estimated by Western economists at \$14 billion and an inflation rate of 80 per cent a year.

Many of the country's 25 million people face intermittent shortages of basic items and in some areas have virtually no

essential services.

The IMF, in on-off talks with Sudan, pressed for a range of politically-sensitive reforms such as spending cuts, unifying a double-tier foreign exchange system and privatising loss-making state enterprises.

Mahdi said the country, which owes the IMF about \$1 billion in arrears, could not commit itself to IMF-inspired policies unless it was able to cut spending.

He ruled out a devaluation of the Sudanese pound, saying this would have to be accompanied by other measures such as spending cuts.

But he said attempts to cut spending were dependent on factors such as the cost of the civil war, rehabilitation work after floods last August and wage rises agreed last December.

"A country at war cannot have a normal economy," he said. "We are facing exceptional circumstances and we cannot reform the economy unless we can protect it from those circumstances."

Mahdi said Sudan's foreign debt, which Khartoum has not been able to service since the early 1980s, added to the country's economic problems.

"Our foreign debt is preventing us from receiving any credit facilities abroad. This is crippling us," he said.

The Sudanese pound has an official exchange rate of 4.5 to the dollar. A parallel rate, currently 12.2 pounds to the dollar, was introduced in October to try to encourage Sudanese working abroad to send home their savings.

But the success of the parallel rate has been undermined by the black market rate, now 20 pounds to the dollar.

Referring to the floods, Mahdi said Sudan had not yet received \$300 million pledged by the World Bank to help ravaged areas. He put the cost of damage there at 14 billion pounds (\$3.1 billion).

### ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

#### World Bank stresses quality of life

ISTANBUL (R) — World Bank President Barber Conable said Thursday the bank was implementing a new policy which sought to end poverty and increase the quality of life in countries it helps. "Early in the 1980s we worked almost entirely on economic growth, but... (now) our major intention is to reduce poverty... to increase the quality of life," he told Reuters in an interview. Conable said the bank, which used to tie its loans to monetary considerations, introduced the policy-switch six months ago.

#### Alitalia pilots call off strikes

ROME (R) — Alitalia airline pilots Thursday called off plans to hold six days of strikes this month, their unions said. The May 29-31 strikes had been called to press demands for improved pay and working conditions. The unions cancelled them after meetings with Alitalia management.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, May 18, 1989 Central Bank official rates				
Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0		
Pound Sterling	867.3	877.8		
Deutschemark	272.8	276.5	Dutch guilder	242.1 245.1
Swiss franc	305.7	309.5	Swedish crown	80.9 81.8
French franc	80.6	81.6	Italian lira (for 100)	37.4 37.9
Japanese yen (for 100)	386.5	390.6	Belgian franc (for 10)	130.3 132.0

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6168/78	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1895/905	Canadian dollar	
	1.9685/92	Deutschemark	
	2.2175/85	Dutch guilders	
	1.7550/60	Swiss francs	
	41.19/22	Belgian francs	
	6.6620/70	French francs	
	1434/1435	Italian lire	
	138.72/82	Japanese yen	
	6.6430/80	Swedish crowns	
	7.0960/1010	Norwegian crowns	
	7.6650/700	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	366.40/366.80	U.S. dollars	

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Bond group companies saw sharp rises but the All Ordinaries index closed just 0.3 of a point higher at 1,561.3. TOKYO — Prices closed moderately higher in light trading. Most investors were unwilling to move before the weekend and were concerned about a possible Bank of Japan discount rate rise. The Nikkei index rose 144.65 to 34,000.98.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng index plunged more than 100 points on growing fears that the confrontation between Peking students and leaders was coming to a head. The index tumbled 132.03 to 3,145.63.

SINGAPORE — Market closed for holiday. BOMBAY — Prices drifted lower in light trading after the market opened firm. Brokers said financial institutions moved to the sidelines after Thursday's brief bout of bargain-bunting.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended higher in professional-dominated trading, as the spotlight stayed on speciality stocks and possible takeover candidates. The DAX index rose 6.43 to 1,350.41.

ZURICH — Prices closed steady to higher. Selected leading stocks gained ground, boosted by recent bullish corporate news and a decline in short-term Eurofranc deposit rates. The all-share Swiss index rose three to 1,006.9.

PARIS — Prices were steady in thin volume, with no fresh direction from April inflation data in line with forecasts.

LONDON — The FTSE 100 share index reached the psychologically important 2,200-point level in the afternoon for the first time since the October 1987 market crash. At 1552 GMT the FTSE index was up 22.9 at 2,200.2.

NEW YORK — A strong gain in bond prices helped stocks extend an earlier advance. The Dow in mid-morning was up 14 at 2,494.

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### INVITATION

To celebrate the Independence Day of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan The Department of Antiquities has the pleasure to invite the public to visit the archaeological exhibition organised in cooperation with the University of Sydney, Australia.

"Treasures of the Desert" Hisma Region - Southern Jordan

From May 20 to June 10, 1989, at the Registration and Research Centre of the Department of Antiquities, Jabal Amman.

The exhibition will open daily from 9 a.m.-1 a.m. and 4-7 p.m. For group visits please phone 644482.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

The Delegation of the European Communities in Amman has moved to its new offices in Shmeisani opposite the Arab Potash Company. There will be no change in the Delegation's telephone, telex and telefax numbers.

The Delegation will be closed on Sunday and Monday (21, 22 May) and will reopen on Tuesday 23 May 1989.

### TO THE BRAZILIAN COMMUNITY IN JORDAN

All the Brazilian citizens living in Jordan, aged 16 or more, bearers of valid Brazilian passports, are requested to report to the Brazilian Embassy, Consular section, as soon as possible, up to the end of May, in order to be registered in a cadaster to be able to vote at the Embassy for the coming presidential elections in Brazil.

### Elizabeth and Jean-Francois DOBELLE

Would like to extend deepest thanks for all those who shared their happiness on the occasion of their wedding and especially those who contributed in the success of the ceremony. They also wish to thank all those who kindly sent them presents, flowers and telegrams.

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**A HELPING HAND**... A medical aide carries a Chinese student who collapsed in Peking's Tiananmen Square after three days of hunger-strike demanding democracy.

## 'Unsmiling prince' may succeed Takeshita

TOKYO (R) — Japan's next premier may well be the elderly former chairman of a bankrupt shipping company, a ruling party veteran named Toshio Komoto, party insiders said Friday.

Komoto, 77, is emerging among the front-runners in the prime ministerial sweepstakes, mainly because he is untainted by the nation's worst postwar political scandal, a Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) source said.

The succession was thrown into turmoil last week when the party's unanimous choice, respected veteran Masayoshi Ito, flatly refused the job, demanding sweeping party reforms.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita announced last month he was stepping down over links to the Recruit shares-for-favors scandal.

He said he planned to resign after the budget passes the upper house of parliament next week. Komoto, called the "unsmiling prince" because of his poker face, heads the smallest of the five LDP factions and along with his 30 followers is considered unscathed by the Recruit affair.

"By simple elimination of the possible candidates, it'll be Komoto who remains," an LDP source said.

The size of Komoto's faction also makes him attractive since he is not seen as posing a threat to the larger groups.

Komoto would be the least harmful candidate for everybody, one party source said. Other names bandied about are Michita Sakata, a former speaker of the lower house, Masaharu Gotoda, former chief

cabinet secretary and Shin Kanemaru, a former deputy prime minister.

Gotoda is considered undesirable because he is a close associate of former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone who will testify to parliament next Thursday on his involvement in the scandal.

Kanemaru has a similar problem as a close Takeshita ally. Sakata has a clean reputation but lacks influence because he is not aligned to any faction.

Despite repeated refusals, Ito continues to be wooed by party elders. Like Komoto, he has no known involvement in the Recruit affair.

But party sources said Ito, who gave health problems as one reason for refusal, is most unlikely to take on the premiership.

Komoto himself is dogged by a few ghosts.

In 1979, he bought some 300,000 New Party memberships in an unsuccessful bid for the premiership.

In 1985 he presided over the ignominious collapse of his Sanko Steamship Company, one of Japan's biggest bankruptcies.

But overall Komoto's image is relatively untarnished, the sources said.

The LDP could make their decision on the succession as early as the end of the next week, they said.

The Recruit scandal has led to the resignation of three cabinet ministers and the arrests so far of 13 people on corruption charges.

Two politicians, one a close Nakasone aide, are expected to be indicted next week, press reports said Friday.

## UNESCO tries to block publication

NEW YORK (R) — A United Nations agency established in 1945 to protect the "free exchange of ideas and knowledge" is threatening an American University Press with legal action to block publication of a book tracing the agency's 40-year relationship with the United States.

The producers of the work, however, vowed Thursday to publish in July despite the threats from UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

The United States and Britain withdrew from the Paris-based organisation in 1985, alleging it had become an instrument of anti-American propaganda under the leadership of Amadou Mahtar Mbow of Senegal.

The book, "Hope and Folly: The United States and UNESCO, 1945-1985," was commissioned by UNESCO in October 1986 and a contract signed with New York's Institute for Media Analysis.

In late 1987, after completion of the manuscript, Mbow was replaced by Federico Mayor Zaragoza of Spain and UNESCO informed the institute that the agency "has decided that this manuscript should not be published."

Lawyers for the institute said, however, the contract between UNESCO and the institute gives either party the right to publish the book. The University of Minnesota Press in Minneapolis

agreed to publish the book.

In April 1988, UNESCO said the book's publication "could potentially open up new wounds at an inopportune moment..." and could be counter-productive to our desire to see the United States return to UNESCO."

Last month, UNESCO said again it was "strongly opposed to the publication of the book" and asked the institute to "renounce its plans to publish this work."

A lawyer for the institute, Melvin Wolf, said the institute would make no such renunciation.

On May 2, UNESCO threatened the University of Minnesota Press with legal action, saying it was ready to "assert its rights to prevent unauthorised publication."

No court papers have been filed yet in the case and UNESCO said in a statement Wednesday that as co-owner of the book, it "has the right to decline to have the book published."

Wulf countered by saying U.S. copyright law gives either party in a joint copyright contract the right to publish.

"UNESCO showed approval of the manuscript by paying the authors and the law is very clear. It has become a first amendment question. They will fail to stop publication," Wulf said. The first amendment to the U.S. constitution protects freedom of expression.

## Soviet republics adopt broader economic independence

# Baltic states pursue campaign

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Estonia and Lithuania, two of the Soviet Union's 15 republics, have passed laws claiming far broader economic independence than authorities in Moscow want them to have.

In Lithuania, the Supreme Soviet legislature also declared the tiny republic "sovereign," an official of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry said.

Lithuania's law includes provisions for printing its own money and Estonia's would allow limited private property. Both republics' economic plans call for control over virtually all industry on their territory and declare them the sole masters of their natural resources.

The laws fly in the face of recommendations from a Moscow commission headed by non-voting politburo member Yuri Maslyukov on how much autonomy the republics should have from central authorities.

The Maslyukov commission proposed leaving control over energy and at least half of heavy industry, as well as all defence production, in the hands of Moscow bureaucrats. It also would

prohibit republics from printing their own money.

Geidrius Cekulis, first secretary of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry, said in a telephone interview from Vilnius, the capital, that the economic law was passed Thursday without amendments after several hours of sharp debate. However, he said he did not know the final vote tally.

A second law regulating the farm economy was delayed until another meeting in June of the republic's Supreme Soviet, or parliament.

The official TASS news agency said in a report from Tallinn, the Estonian capital, that legislators there had approved a law establishing the basic forms of cost-accounting in Estonia. It provided no details of the law.

Estonian Prime Minister Indrek Toome last week underlined the differences between Maslyukov's proposal and Estonia's

draft law on "economic self-management," saying Moscow "in many ways is following the general principle 'you're going to live the way we permit you'... for us, such an approach is unacceptable."

The Lithuanian parliament passed the law granting it general sovereignty by a large margin, said Cekulis.

The law specifies that national Soviet laws are valid in Lithuania only if they also are approved by the Lithuanian parliament, effectively claiming the republic can veto Kremlin decisions it does not like.

The Estonian Supreme Soviet passed a similar law on sovereignty last November. Moscow authorities pronounced the law invalid, but the Estonian parliament stood by its decision and considers the sovereignty law still in force.

Both sides have avoided bringing the dispute to a head.

The Estonian law on the economy contradicts the Soviet constitution on several points, in-

cluding its provision allowing limited private ownership of property, and Estonian authorities will have to ask Moscow to invalidate some articles of the constitution in consequence, Toome said in a recent television interview.

The published Estonian draft law did not provide for separate currency.

The Estonian law declared: "Within limits set by the law, small-scale private property is allowed." In a similar vein, the Lithuanian law provides for "the economically necessary introduction of plots of land for perpetual use with the right of inheritance."

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev has proposed leasing land for 50 years or more, but the Communist Party leadership has rejected private ownership, which contradicts communist ideology.

Both republics say the new laws on economic independence will come into force in 1990. The laws also specify that foreigners may own property in Estonia and Lithuania, and make provisions

to encourage foreign investment and trade.

Estonia claims full control over its land, water, air space, woods and other natural resources in the law. All industry, except defence-related factories, are to be put under control of local authorities, according to the law.

The Lithuanian proposal's provision on currency states that the republic "can introduce its own money system" with independent banks, and that it can "if necessary print its own state obligations, stocks and other valuable papers."

Lithuania's Supreme Soviet was set to debate the sovereignty law last November, but then dropped it without a vote after the republic's Communist Party leader, Algirdas Brazauskas, said it was unconstitutional.

Latvia, situated between Lithuania and Estonia, is considering similar measures on economic independence.

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, formerly independent nations, were forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940.

## Gorbachev sheds light on his personal life

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev has given details of his family, home, pay and hobbies in a rare interview on his private life with an official Soviet journal.

In the interview, released by the official news agency TASS Thursday as he returned home from the Sino-Soviet summit in Peking, Gorbachev confirmed reports that he earns 1,200 roubles (\$1,800) a month like other full members of the ruling Politburo. He said he works almost non-stop, and finds it hard to take his mind off his official duties.

"Except for a few hours that are spent on sleep, all my time is given to my work and... I must admit that my attention is concentrated on work even when I am on leave," he said.

Gorbachev said he has a city flat and state-owned country house but no private one, and likes nothing better than walking in the forest but rarely has the time.

The journal which interviewed Gorbachev, News of the Soviet

Communist Party Central Committee, said it did so in response to numerous requests from readers to know more about their leader and his background.

Although dwelling on details of his early life, Gorbachev shed no light on his progress through the upper echelons of Soviet power nor the way he was chosen to take over as Communist Party leader in March 1985.

The son of a peasant family in the southern town of Stavropol, Gorbachev said he started helping out on the local collective farm from the age of 13.

"Altogether I worked for five years at a machine and tractor station, combining my studies with work in the field," Gorbachev said.

Gorbachev said he was enrolled at the law department of Moscow University in 1950 and two years later joined the Communist Party.

It was while studying in 1951 that Gorbachev said he met his wife Raisa, a philosophy student from the Siberian town of Rubt-



Mikhail Gorbachev, whose parents were railway workers. They married in 1953.

The future leader then returned to his native Stavropol, where he soon shifted to work in the local Communist Party and rose to become territorial first secretary.

At the same time he took a correspondence course from the economics department of an agricultural institute, a useful qualification for advancement in the party apparatus.

## Khashoggi OK after month in Swiss jail

BERN (AP) — Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi arms dealer and financier once reputed to be the world's richest man, Thursday completed his first month as prisoner 67931 in a Bern jail, with a U.S. extradition demand imminent.

Since his April 18 arrest in the Swiss capital, Khashoggi, 53, has swapped his jet-set lifestyle for a mundane prison routine, which includes cleaning the toilet in his cell.

If he remains jailed for another month, which seems likely, legal and medical fees and the cost of keeping his entourage in a nearby hotel total 600,000 Swiss francs (\$353,000), according to the Swiss tabloid Blick.

Khashoggi was arrested on a U.S. warrant charging he helped ousted Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda hide riches stolen from their country.

A U.S. federal prosecutor said Tuesday that the United States was to send a formal extradition request to Bern by the end of the week.

Khashoggi's Swiss lawyer, Ralph Zloczower, said he expects

to appeal against extradition — a legal process that could go to Switzerland's supreme court, the federal tribunal, and take several months.

Zloczower said Khashoggi's health was "OK." His doctor, Daniel Nicole, declined comment.

The financier reportedly had come to Bern for medical treatment and to lose weight.

Swiss officials say Khashoggi, jailed pending a decision on his extradition, does not receive preferential treatment.

Like most prisoners he has a private cell. He can wear his own clothes, read newspapers, listen to the radio and rent a television for one Swiss franc (about 60 cents) a day.

But Blick, which has reported almost daily on the Bern prison's most famous occupant, said Khashoggi enjoys perks.

The newspaper said Khashoggi was free to choose the time and content of his meals, which often include poultry, vegetables and fruit, and are delivered by a Mercedes 500 from the luxury Schweizerhof hotel where he was staying when arrested.



Adnan Khashoggi

Blick said if Khashoggi remains in jail another month, the hotel bill alone for his daughter, a chauffeur and doctor could reach 40,000 francs (\$23,529).

Fees for his lawyers and doctors could total as much as 500,000 francs (\$294,118), Blick estimated.

Meanwhile, the tabloid said, sacksful of mail have been delivered for Khashoggi, including love letters from admirers around the world and correspondence from businessmen taking advantage of the entrepreneur's new address to make contact with him. All letters have to be screened by prison officers.

## NATO rift dominates Franco-U.S. summit

OTTAWA (R) — France's potential role as an arbiter in the dispute within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) over disarmament strategy was ready to be tested Friday as President Francois Mitterrand began visits to the United States and Canada.

The French leader is well placed to help patch up the row over the future of short-range nuclear weapons (SNF) in Europe and prevent it from blighting the May 29-30 NATO summit in Brussels.

As West Germany's closest political ally, Mitterrand was expected to counsel compromise during several hours of private discussions with U.S. president George Bush.

West Germany is leading the campaign inside the 16-nation Western alliance against modernising NATO's SNF arsenal and wants negotiations with the Soviet Bloc to ban the weapons from Europe entirely.

The United States, forcefully backed by Britain, rejects the policy. They want more proof of

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's peaceful intentions before reducing NATO defences.

Mitterrand, who was starting his three-day North American tour in Ottawa Friday evening, spelled out French policy in Paris on the eve of his trip.

He came out clearly against the West German calls for negotiations with Moscow on SNF saying it was not yet time for such talks.

NATO should not rush to modernise its Lance SNF missiles but push for progress at the Vienna talks on cutting conventional weapons, he said.

While remaining a NATO member, France left the military command structure in 1966 and has steered a go-it-alone policy of independent nuclear deterrence ever since.

That strategy will be unsustainable in East-West talks on scrapping all SNF weapons begin.

France is not ready yet to include its own nuclear force — totalling 300-400 warheads, according to Mitterrand — in any bargaining process, as Gorbachev desires.

## Bad news for balding heads, wrinkled faces

CHICAGO (R) — Two scientists Thursday announced bad news for balding heads and sun-wrinkled faces.

Treatments for both conditions — Minoxidil for baldness and Retin-A cream for sun-aged skin — are both far from proven, the researchers said in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Minoxidil's "ability to stop hair loss may be greater than its ability to grow new hair," said Jeffrey Dover and Kenneth Arndt of Boston.

"Enthusiasm for this treatment seems to be exceeding its demonstrated clinical effectiveness," they added.

Of Retin-A, they said, more studies are needed, consumer excitement has outweighed results and it is premature to prescribe it for skin ageing.

Minoxidil, marketed by Upjohn Company under the name Rogaine, was the first baldness treatment ever approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which regulates the drug industry.

The agency warned that the drug would not work for everyone with male pattern baldness.

The Boston researchers, reviewing several studies, said hair regrowth is often only a fraction of normal density and that cosmetically substantial regrowth is likely in only 10 to 20 per cent of well-selected users.

However the drug remains a scientific advance, they said, adding: "The next generation of similar agents will, no doubt, bring enhanced effectiveness."

Retin-A, made by Ortho Pharmaceutical Corporation, a unit of Johnson and Johnson, has been approved by the FDA for use against acne, but not to reduce wrinkles. Last December the University of Michigan researcher whose study 12 months earlier touted Retin-A as a wrinkle reducer, said new tests had affirmed its usefulness.

The Boston researchers, however, said that until more detailed tests are undertaken, "the magnitude of benefit and the characteristics of patients likely to benefit will not be clear."

## Stars are created, not born in Japan

By Anna Esaki  
Reuters

TOKYO — Stars in Japan are created, not born, as the showbiz machine turns out hundreds of instant teenage idols every year.

Television stations need huge numbers of entertainers, who are groomed by specialist schools and promoters.

To be considered, a girl must be in her early teens, and look innocent and adorable. Talent is an optional extra.

"I guess ability doesn't really matter as long as the person has the look," said a promoter at a major production company.

"An idol is cute and in her teens," said Kazuji Kasai, a television producer. "She is someone teenagers admire."

Once chosen and suitably groomed, she "debuts" with a record release and television appearance.

"Idols ideally debut at 13," said Minoru Kawamura, director of Theatre Academy, a school for training entertainers. "By the time they become 15 or 16 they may have already hit their peak."

If she captures the public's imagination, the idol can graduate into becoming a "tarento" (talent) around the age of 20.

A "tarento" is an entertainer who can sing, act, be funny, or simply look cute. Television stations need vast numbers of them to fill out their endless talk and quiz shows.

Tens of thousands of young people, mostly girls, compete at auditions and contests throughout Japan. Between 200 to 300 "debut" each year. But only a handful succeed.

"Sometimes the face is

good, but the singing is bad, or the face is bad but the singing is good," said Kasai. "You can put a lot of money into an idol and come up with zero."

A major television station recently held an audition for a prestigious free training course for the idols of tomorrow.

Photos from 37,000 applicants between the ages of 14 and 19 came flooding in.

A lucky 300 passed the first screening and of those, 40 were selected by an all-male panel after a parade in turquoise leotards and a camera close-up.

Judges asked a few questions about career choices.

"Although I may not appear that way now, people say I am exceedingly bright and cheery, almost to the point of being annoying," said one hopeful. "I would very much like to be a cute tarento."

Idols appear repeatedly on television programmes, singing

the same song, in the same way, over and over.

Winks, coy smiles and doll-like mannerisms are their trademark. Wardrobes include outrageous, complicated outfits, from frilly pink party dresses to off-the-shoulder lush velvet gowns.

"You have to accommodate the tastes of those who are watching television," said Kawamura. "Maybe the entertainment world here has to grow up a bit."

'Squeaky clean idols'

Despite their sweet public facade, not all idols are squeaky clean. Popular newspapers often run scandal stories on their love lives.

Constant public visibility and deliberate self-composure can mask an adolescent, confused teenager. The tragic death in 1986 of teenage idol Yukiko Okada brought that

painfully to light.

Widely believed to be depressed over the lack of attention from an actor many years her senior, Okada jumped off the roof of a building.

One of the newest hot idols is Shizuka Kudo, known for her expressive eyebrows. One of her big hits is "Sexy Silent Communication."

Seiko Matsuda, considered the queen of idols, made waves when she resumed her career after marriage and the birth of a child. Making the switch from idol to motherhood and adult singing career is almost unheard of in Japan.

Other tarentos cash in on their names by opening stores selling goods bearing cartoon reproductions of themselves. No one knows how long fame will last.

"Idols come in a flash and go in a flash," said veteran movie producer Zitsuhiko Sonoda.

## COLUMN 8

### Double-duty condom-holders

PARIS (R) — Clip-on condom-holders in bright yellow plastic may be dangling soon from the belts of French troops, if the military approves an anti-AIDS idea from its medical service. Condoms are to go on sale in every barracks to encourage safer sex. Now military medics want to make sure the men always have a "preservatif" handy when off-base. The prototype model, which contains basic instructions about the condom's use, does double duty as a key-holder and could be printed with regimental badges or the names of warships.

### Seaman bites off man's thumb

REGENSDORF, Switzerland (R) — A South Korean seaman bit off a compatriot's left thumb and swallowed it during a drunken row, police said Tuesday. The 26-year-old sailor fled from the hotel where they were staying in this northern Swiss town Sunday but was arrested an hour later. Police said he may be sent back to South Korea. His victim, a seaman aged 28, was taken to hospital for treatment and later flew to Seoul.

### Mickey Mouse in more languages than Bible

PARIS (R) — The adventure of Mickey Mouse are now available in more languages than the Bible, the work of Lenin or Agatha Christie, a survey of translations shows. Index translationum, published by the United Nations cultural agency UNESCO, says stories featuring Walt Disney's cartoon mouse were translated 284 times in the reference year 1983. Russian revolutionary leader Lenin's writings went out in 276 versions, Agatha Christie's mysteries in 262, and the Bible was translated 219 times.

### Big-nosed robber unmasked

LONDON (R) — Robert Robert Duncan held up eight British savings banks with a toy gun but never wore a mask to hide his big nose, and that was now police traced him. The prosecution told London's old Bailey Court Tuesday that police received dozens of calls identifying 32-year-old Duncan after a newspaper published security camera pictures of him under the headline "The hooter with the shooter." The court heard that Duncan was snapped by the cameras at six branches. He also wore the same clothes at each robbery and did not disguise his handwriting in hold-up notes. Duncan, who stole a total of just over £6,300 (\$10,700), pleaded guilty and was jailed for seven years.

### Agents raid dogs

NEW YORK (AP) — Officials raided a house Tuesday and found as many as 150 dogs and cats running loose and feces in some cases 60 centimetres thick on the floor, a spokesman said. Neighbours had lodged complaints about the house in the flash section of Brooklyn "but we didn't expect there would be this many animals," said Jeffrey Hon, spokesman for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). ASPCA agents went to the house at noon but by mid-afternoon had not been able to capture all of the animals, he said. The agents had counted 104 dogs and cats but think there may be about 50 more, Hon said. The animals were running loose on several floors of the house, where agents found feces in some places 60 centimetres thick, he said.

### Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN	MAX
AMSTERDAM	11-22	73-74
ATHENS	18-61	64-102
BAHRAIN	26-79	81-99
BANGKOK	23-82	97-109
Buenos Aires	68-88	73-100
CAIRO	18-81	65-108
CHICAGO	15-28	59-82
COPENHAGEN	9-19	48-66
FRANKFURT	12-24	54-75
GENEVA	11-22	52-72
HONG KONG	23-75	73-100
ISTANBUL	13-30	56-86
LONDON	15-28	59-82
LOS ANGELES	16-30	61-86
MADRID	12-25	